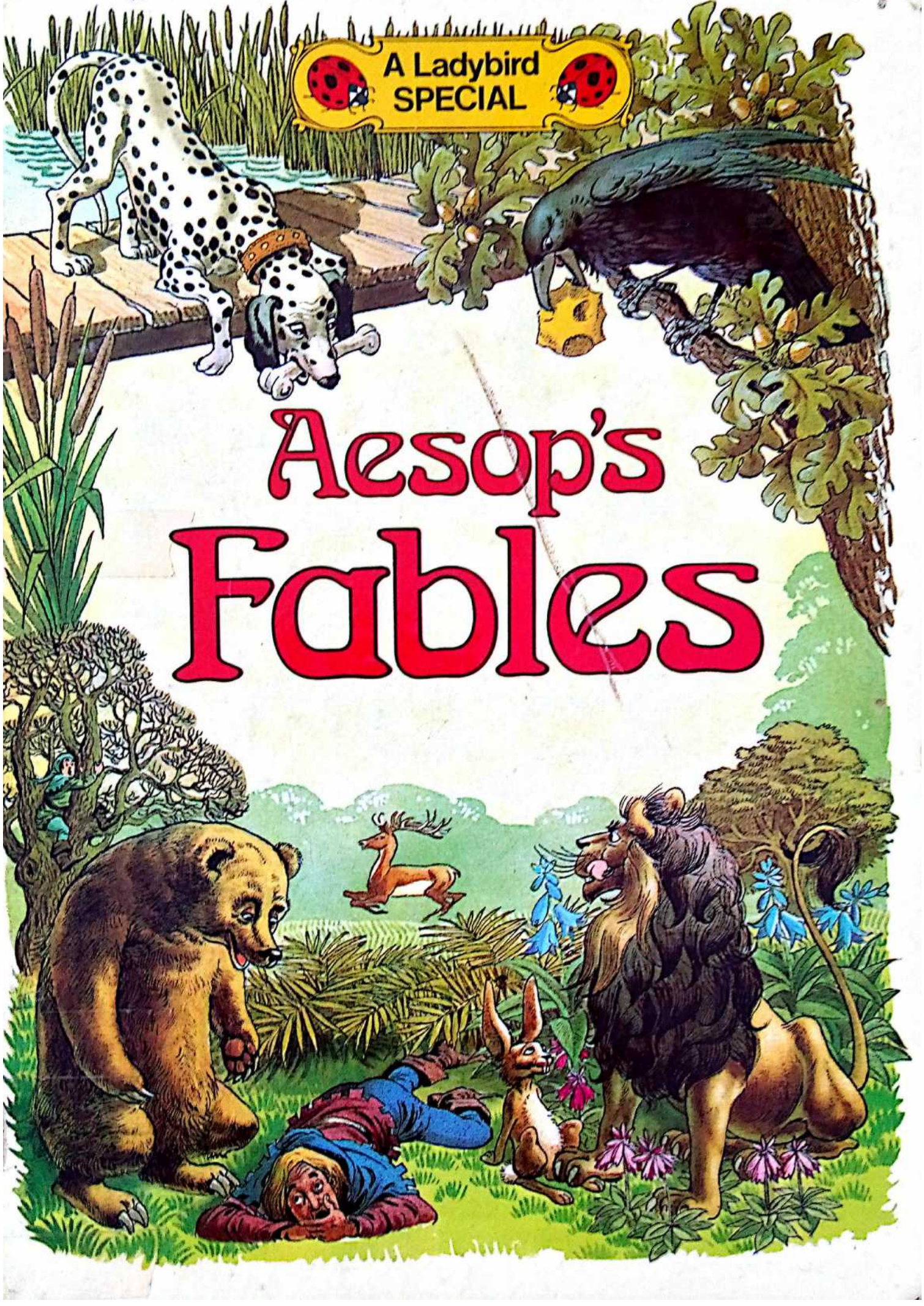


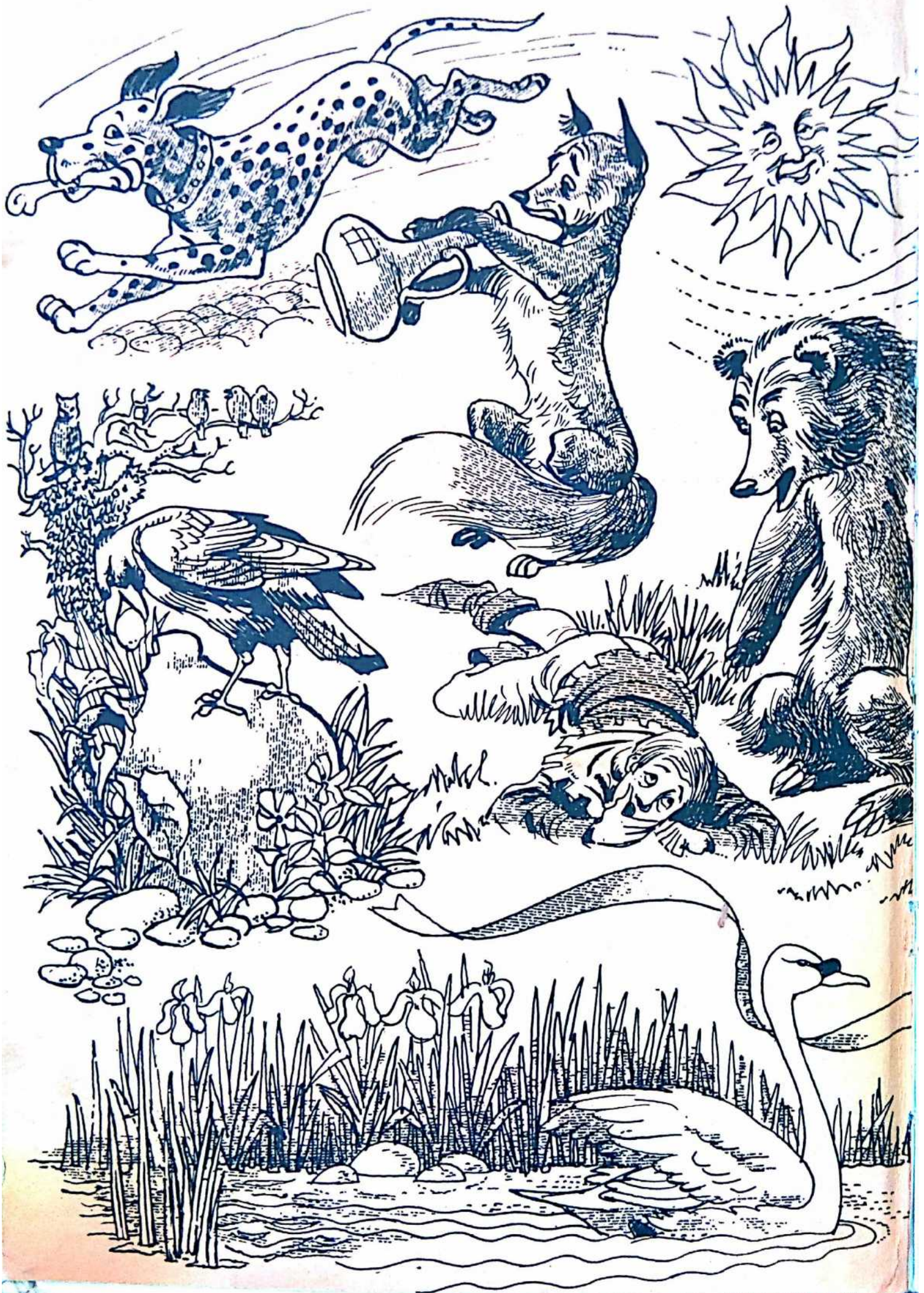


A Ladybird  
SPECIAL



# Aesop's Fables











*We know very little about Aesop's life in Greece in the 6th Century BC. We believe he was born in Thrace and died about 564 BC. He was probably a slave who was later freed by his master, and was said to be deformed but very clever and witty.*

*In later years he lived at the court of King Croesus, who sent him on a journey to the Temple of Apollo at Delphi. Here he made the Delphians so angry that they pushed him over a steep cliff to his death.*

*Aesop did not write down his fables. He told many people the stories and they remembered them. It was nearly two hundred years later before all the stories were collected together and published.*

*The fables were not published in English until the 15th Century, but since then they have been read by people all over the world. Their moral lessons are as true today as they were 2,500 years ago when Aesop was alive.*



*This carving of Aesop, made in marble, is in the Villa Albani in Rome. It is a copy of a Greek original, probably carved by Lysipus in the 6th Century BC, during Aesop's lifetime.*



# Aesop's Fables

retold by Marie Stuart  
with illustrations by  
Robert Ayton



Ladybird Books, Loughborough

**IQBAL BOOK DEPOT**  
SOMERSET STREET,  
SADDAR, KARACHI



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*Adapted from Aesop's Fables Books 1 & 2 in the standard Ladybird edition*

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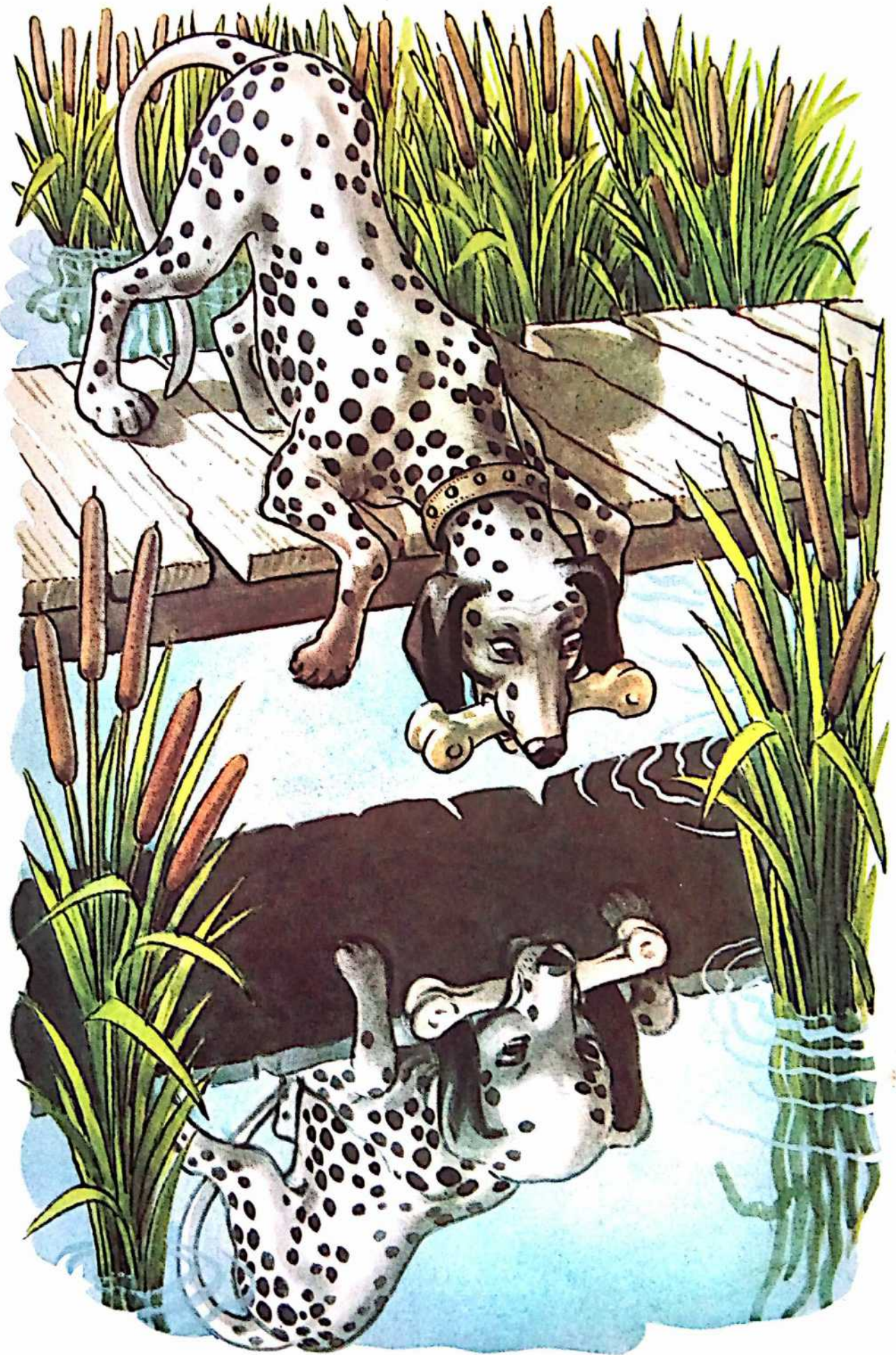


## The dog and his reflection

One day, a dog took a bone from a shop.  
He ran off with it  
before anyone could catch him.

He came to a river and went over the bridge.  
As he looked down into the water,  
he saw another dog with a bone!









He did not know that the dog he saw  
in the water was a reflection of himself.

“That dog has a big bone.  
It is as big as mine,” he said. “I will jump  
into the water and take it from him.”

So in he jumped.



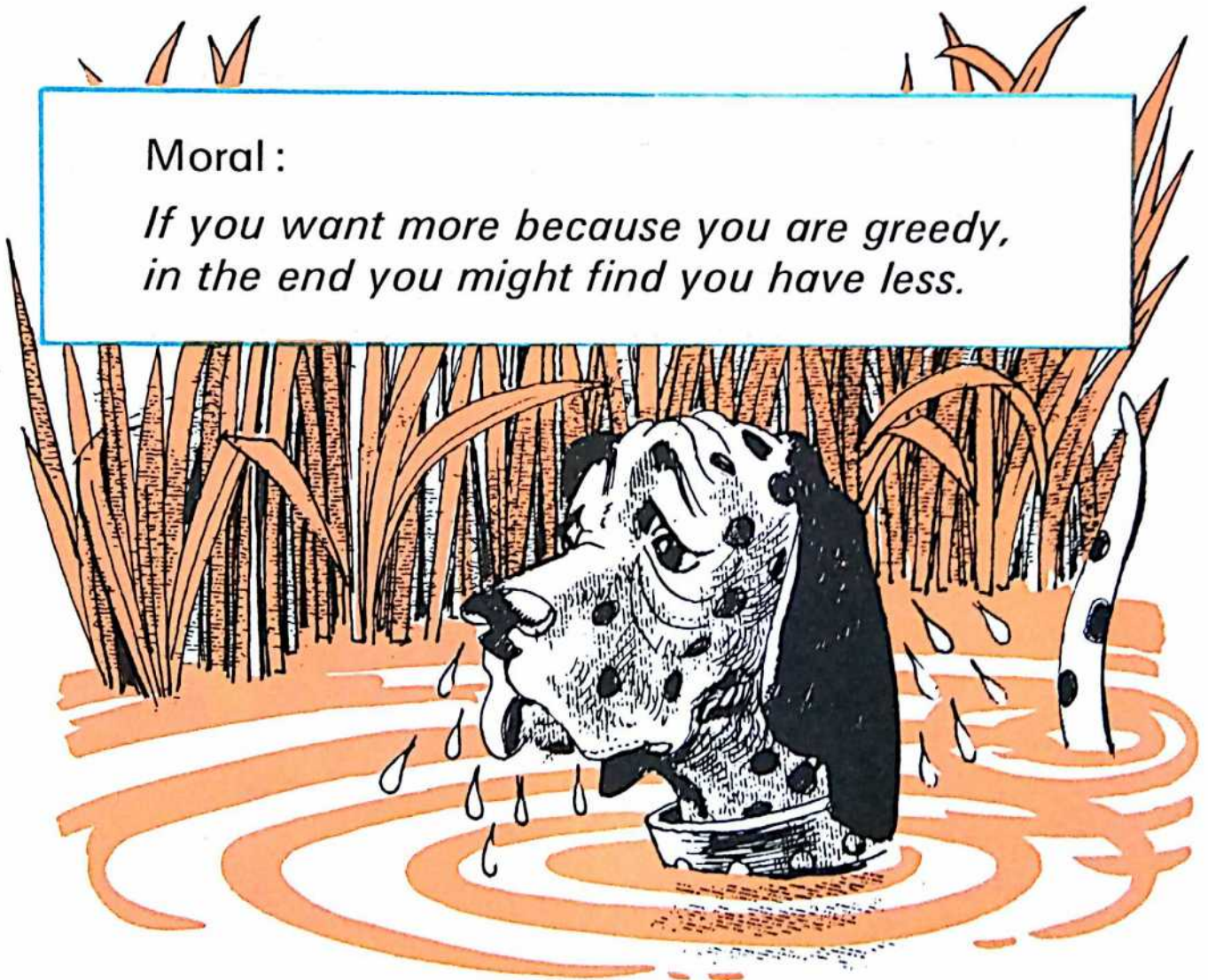
When he was in the water, he could not see the other dog, and he could not see the other bone either.

He had lost his own bone, too, because it fell as he jumped in.

So, because he was greedy, he got nothing in the end.

Moral :

*If you want more because you are greedy, in the end you might find you have less.*





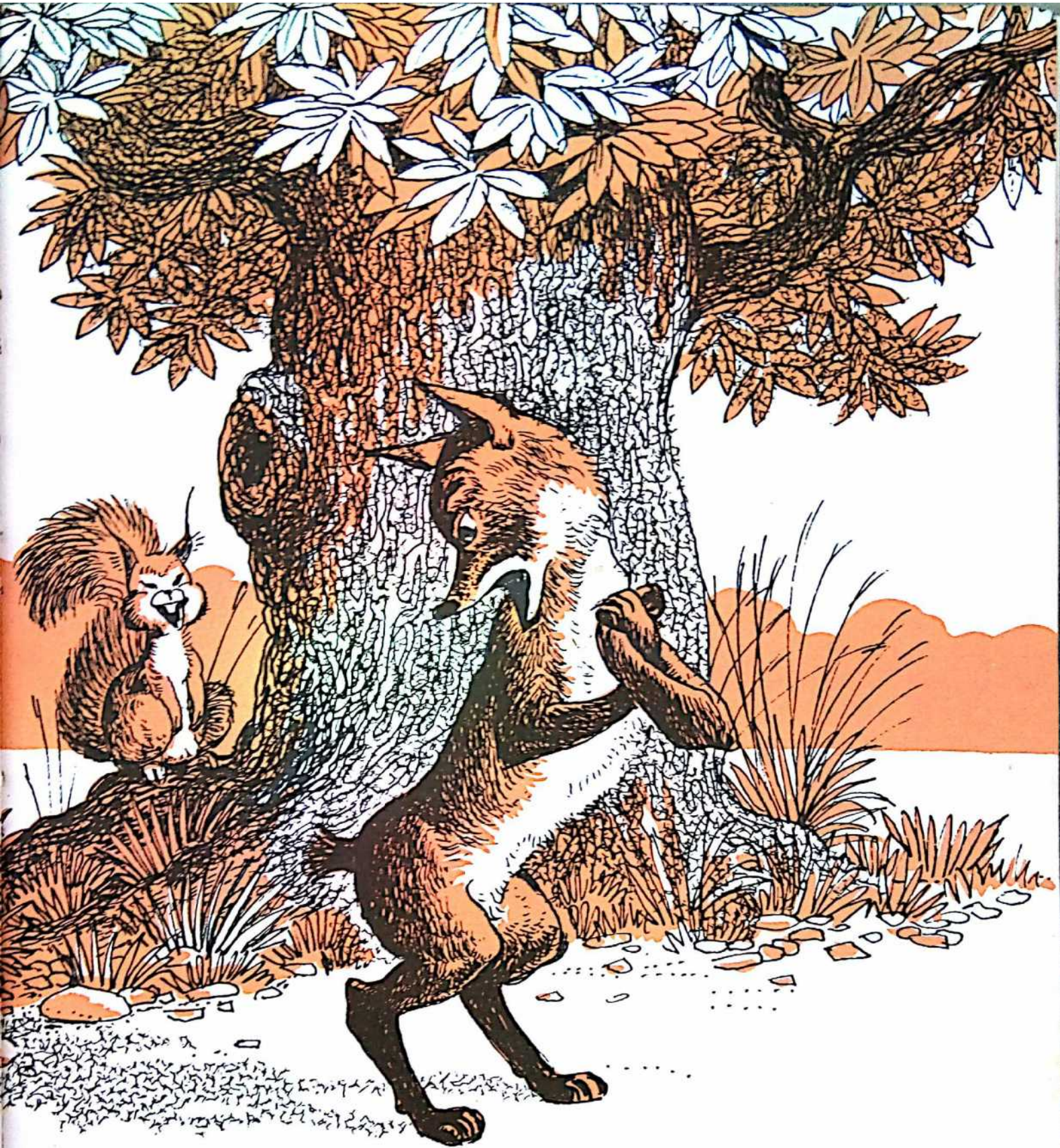
## The fox without a tail

One day a fox ran into a trap.  
He pulled and pulled to get away from it.  
At last he did, but his tail came off.  
It was left in the trap.



He did not like the way he looked without a tail.  
"All the other foxes will make fun of me,"  
he said.





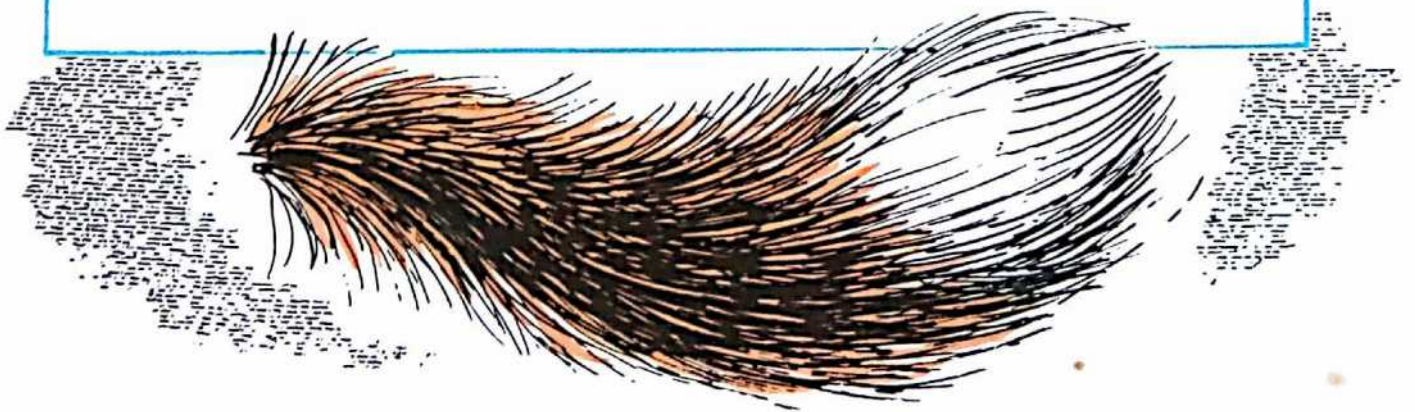
"What can I do?  
I know, I will make them think it is better  
not to have a tail."



So he said to the other foxes,  
"You would look better without tails.  
What use are they anyway? Look at me.  
I can run very fast because I have no tail."

But one old fox said,  
"You say that, only because you have lost  
your own tail. That is why you do not want us  
to have tails.  
We like our tails, and we shall keep them,  
thank you."

*Moral : Wise people are not easily fooled.*









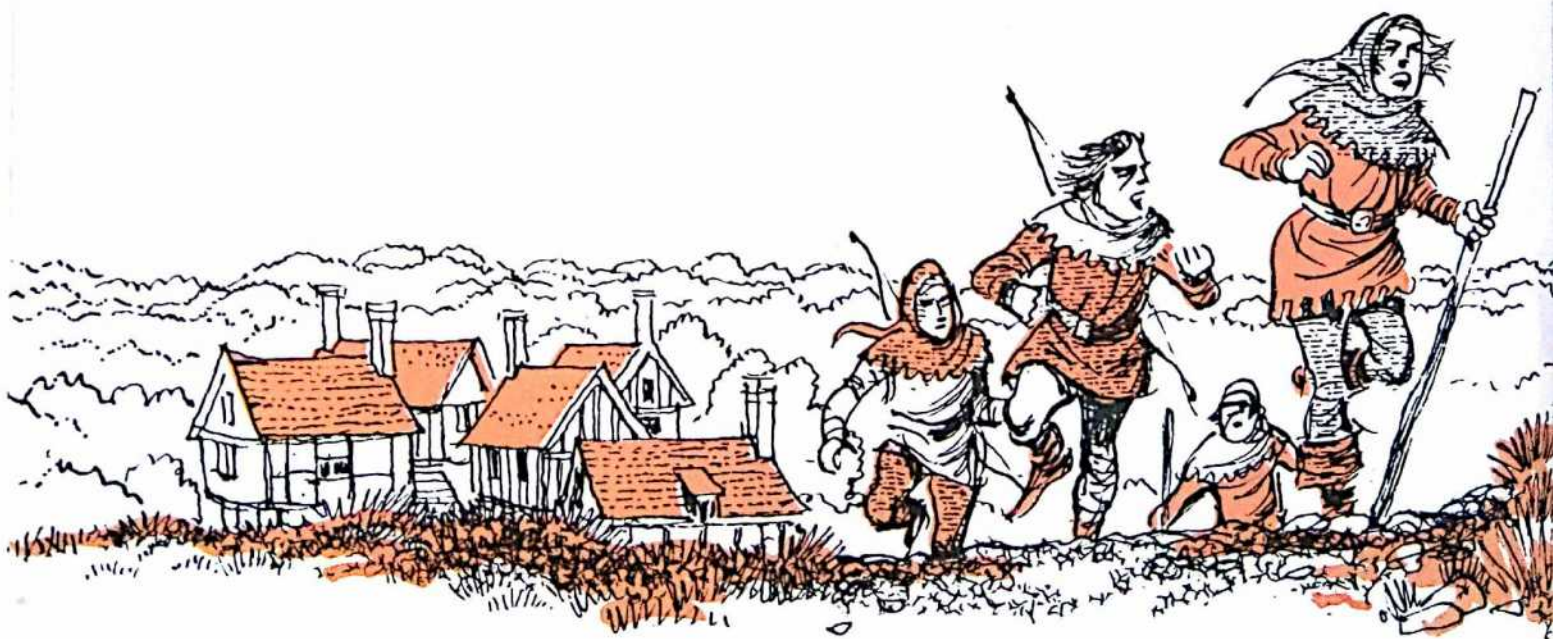
# The shepherd boy and the wolf

Once there was a boy who lived on a farm.  
Every day he had to take his father's sheep  
to a hill a long way off.  
He did not like being there on his own.

One day, he said to himself,  
"I will call Wolf ! Wolf !  
Then everyone will think that a wolf has come  
to eat my sheep.

People will run to help me. It will be fun  
when they find out there is no wolf after all."

So he did call "Wolf ! Wolf !"  
and everyone ran to help him.





When they came he did not thank them.  
He just said, "There is no wolf.  
It was only a joke. Now you will all  
have to go back home again."

He did this three times.  
Each time he told them that there was no wolf.







Then one day the wolf **did** come.  
"Help ! help ! The wolf is here !" called the boy.  
But everyone said,  
"We know that there is no wolf. He just calls  
us for fun. There is no danger.  
This time we will not go."  
So they did not go and the wolf  
killed all the sheep.

**Moral :**

*If we tell lies, no one will believe us when we  
speak the truth.*







# The fir tree and the bramble

One day, on a hill top, a fir tree said  
to a bramble bush.

"Look at me, I am tall, strong, graceful and  
very beautiful.

What good are you ?

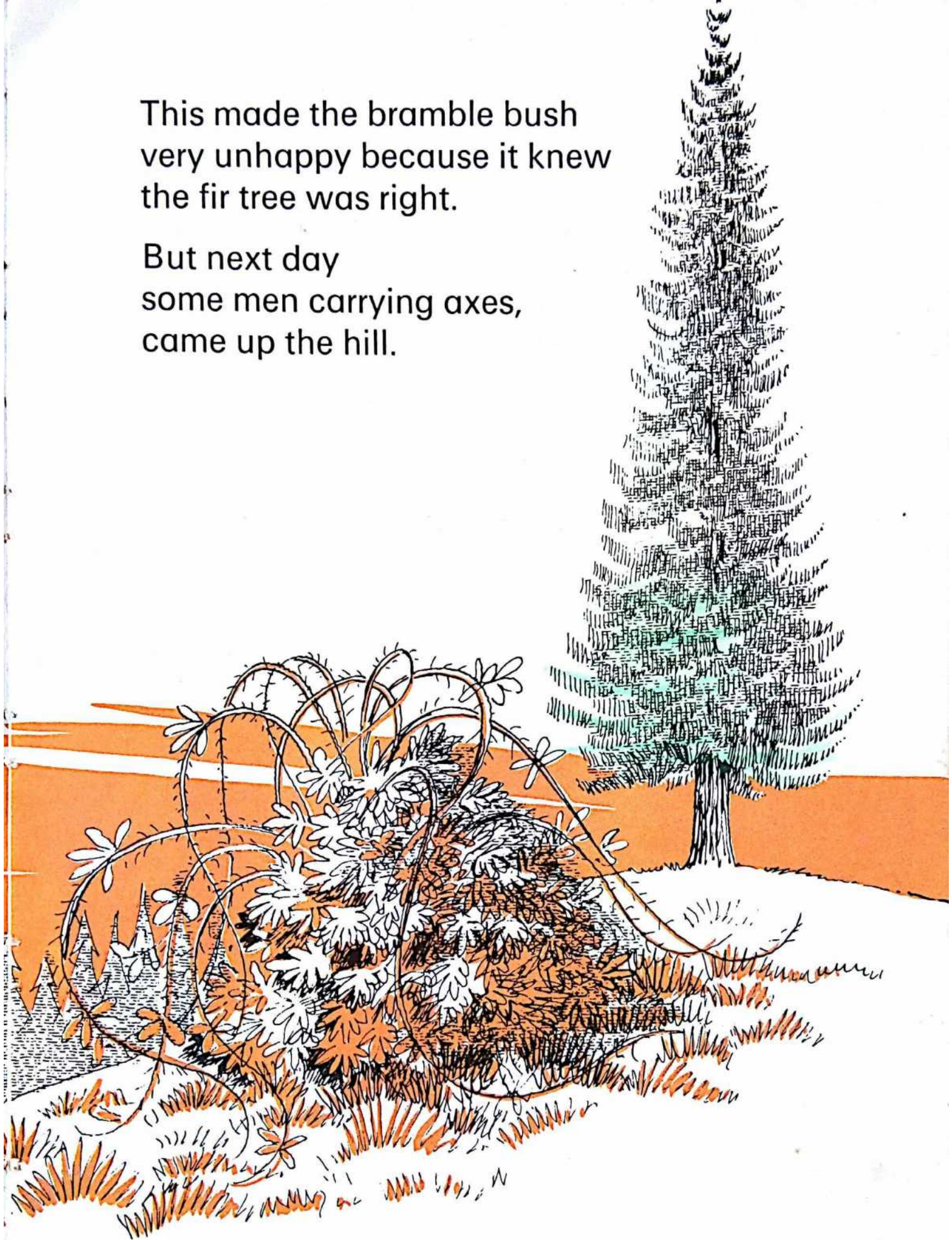
You are small, ugly and untidy."





This made the bramble bush  
very unhappy because it knew  
the fir tree was right.

But next day  
some men carrying axes,  
came up the hill.





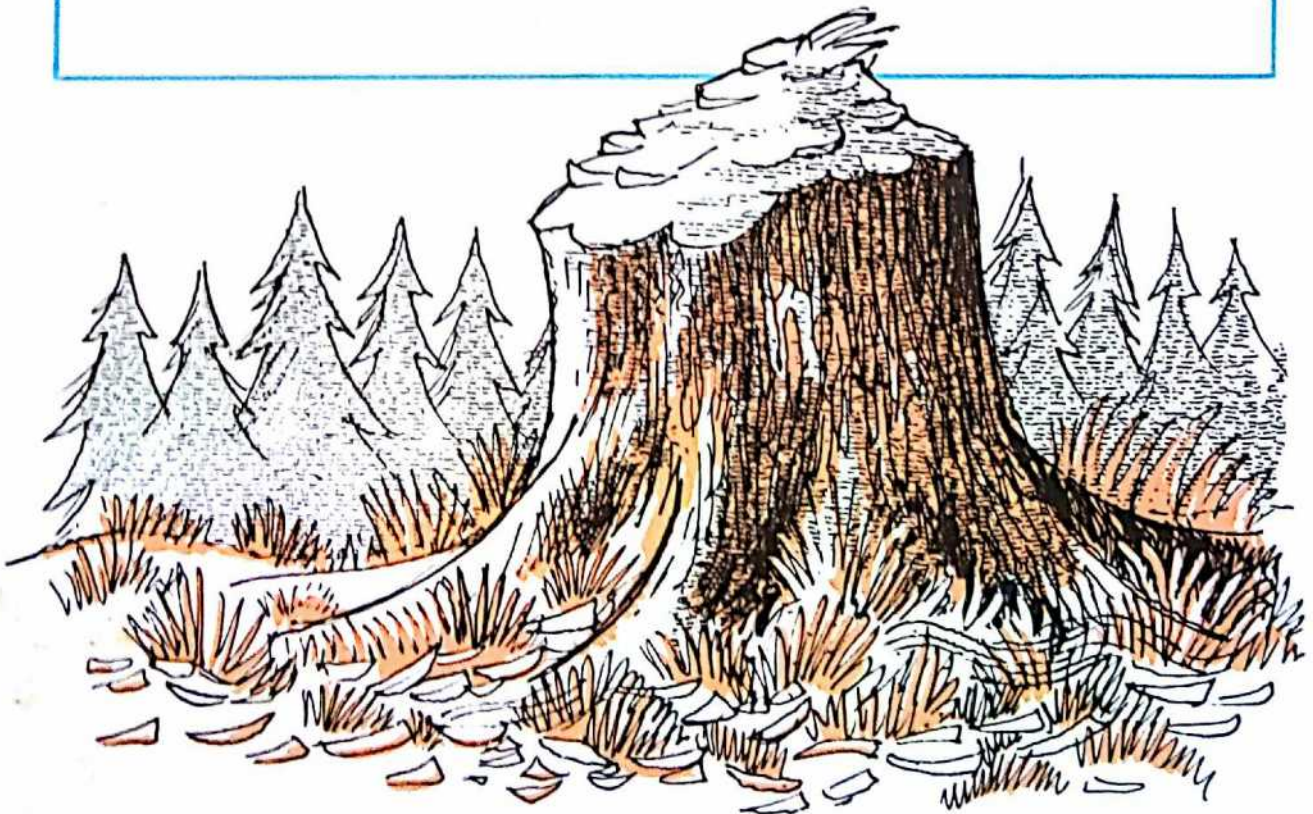
They started to chop down the fir tree.  
They wanted to use it to make a new house.

"Oh dear!" cried the fir tree,  
as it started to fall.

"I wish I were a bramble bush,  
then the men would not have cut me down."

Moral :

*People who are too proud may be sorry later.*











## The boastful traveller

A man once went to a place he had never been to before. It was a long way off and he was there for a year. When he went home, he wanted to talk about it all the time.





Everyone said,  
"Why is he always telling us about that place?  
We don't want to know about it."

They asked him, "Why did you come back  
if it was so nice?"



"I came back to tell you about it,"  
said the man, and he went on talking.

"In that place," he said,  
"all the men can jump well.

One day we wanted to see who could jump  
the best. So we all had a try.

My jump was the best.

I am a very good jumper.

If you had been there at the time, you would  
have seen how good I am."

"We do not have to go all that way to see  
you jump," said one of the men.

"You can let us see how well you can do it here.  
So jump **now** !"

Moral :

*People who boast are soon found out.*









## The ant and the dove

One hot day, an ant went to the river  
to get a drink of water.

But he fell in and could not get out.

A dove saw that the ant was in danger.

"I must help him," she said.

"If I pick up this leaf and drop it in the water,  
the ant can get on it.

It will be like a little boat."

So the dove dropped a leaf in the water  
and the ant climbed onto it.







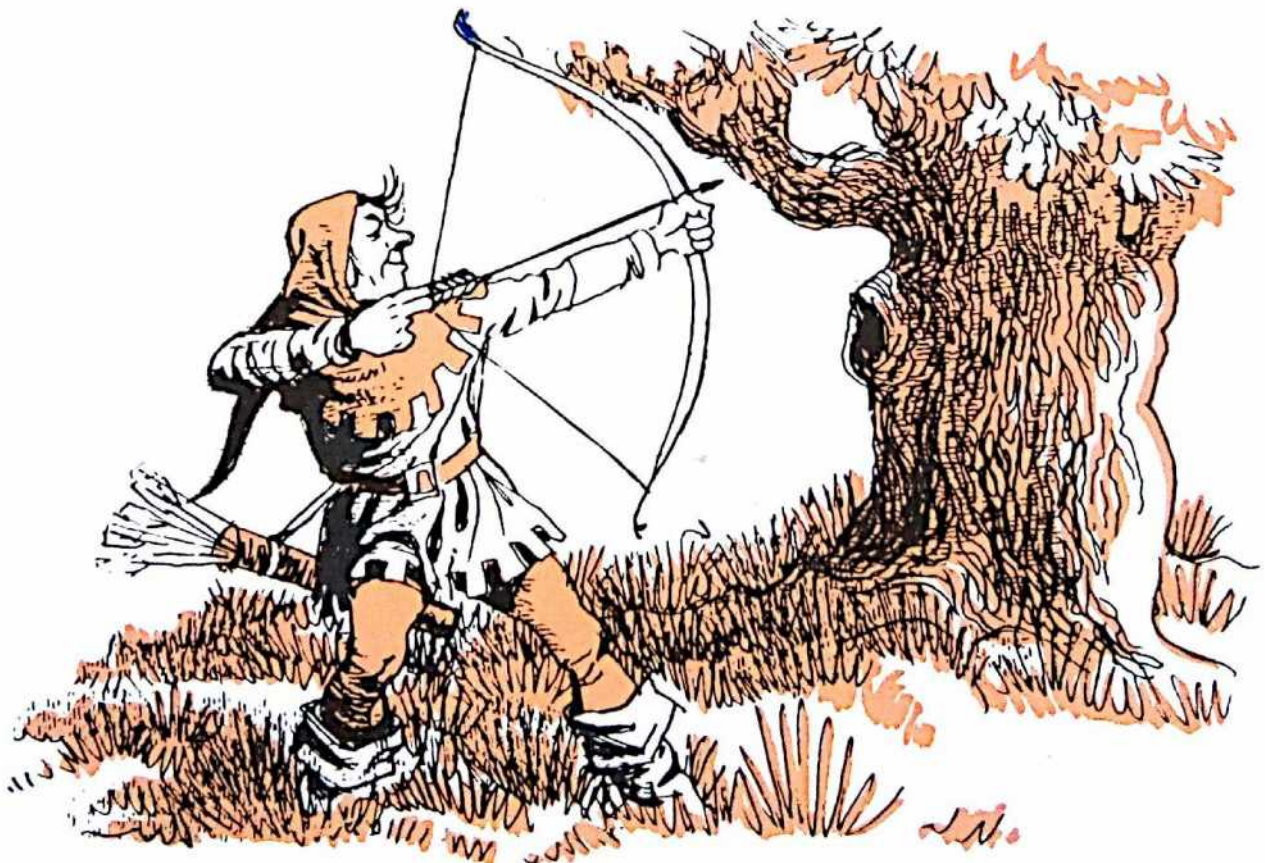
"Thank you, Mrs. Dove," called the ant.

"I will help you one day."

Soon after, a man came along with a bow and arrow. He saw the dove on the tree and was going to shoot at her.

Just then the ant came along and bit the man on the leg.

This made the man jump and his arrow went up into the sky.







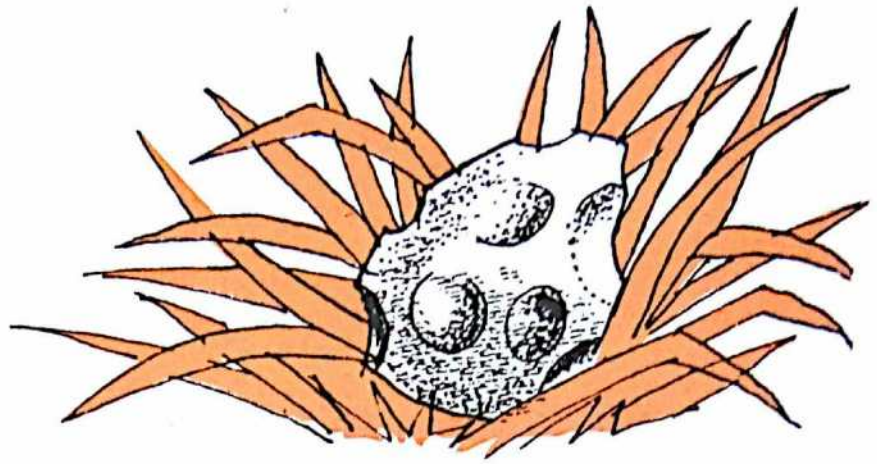
The arrow missed the dove, so she flew away out of danger.

"Thank you little ant," cooed the dove.

"You did help me after all."

Moral : *No-one is too little to be helpful.*





## **The crow and the fox**

One day a big, black crow, found some cheese.

"I will fly up into this tree with it," she said.

"I want to eat it now."

A fox came by and saw the bird.

He saw the cheese as well.

He, too, wanted to eat the cheese.

He went round and round the tree  
while he thought how he could get the cheese.

Then he said to the crow,

"You look very nice.

If you can sing very nicely as well,

I think you must be Queen of all the birds."









The crow was very pleased.  
She liked to be called a Queen.  
"Yes, I can sing," she said.

But as she said this  
the cheese fell from her beak.



Down to the ground it fell.  
The fox picked up the cheese and ran away.

"You may be Queen of the birds.  
You may look nice and you may sing well.  
But you do not think very well,"  
he said, as he ran off.

Moral :

*Beware of people who say nice things they do not mean.*







## **The boys and the frogs**

One day, four boys went out to play near a pond.

Some frogs lived in the pond. It was their home.

One bad boy saw the frogs and said to the other boys,

“Come on ! Let’s make them jump out of the water. It will be fun !”

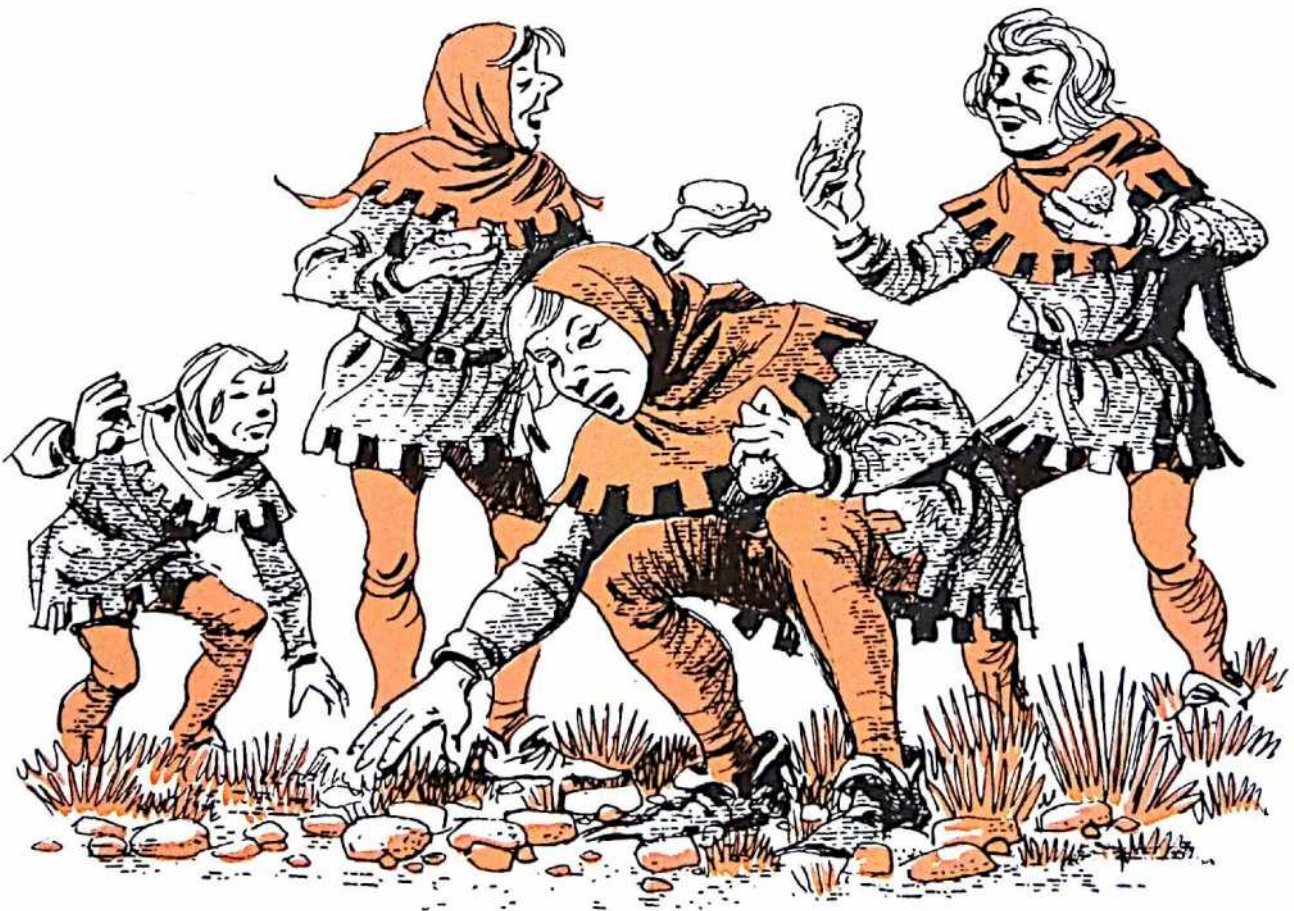


So they all looked for something to throw  
at the frogs.

A little frog saw what they were doing.

He did not like what he saw.

So he hopped onto a floating leaf  
in front of the boys.





"STOP!"

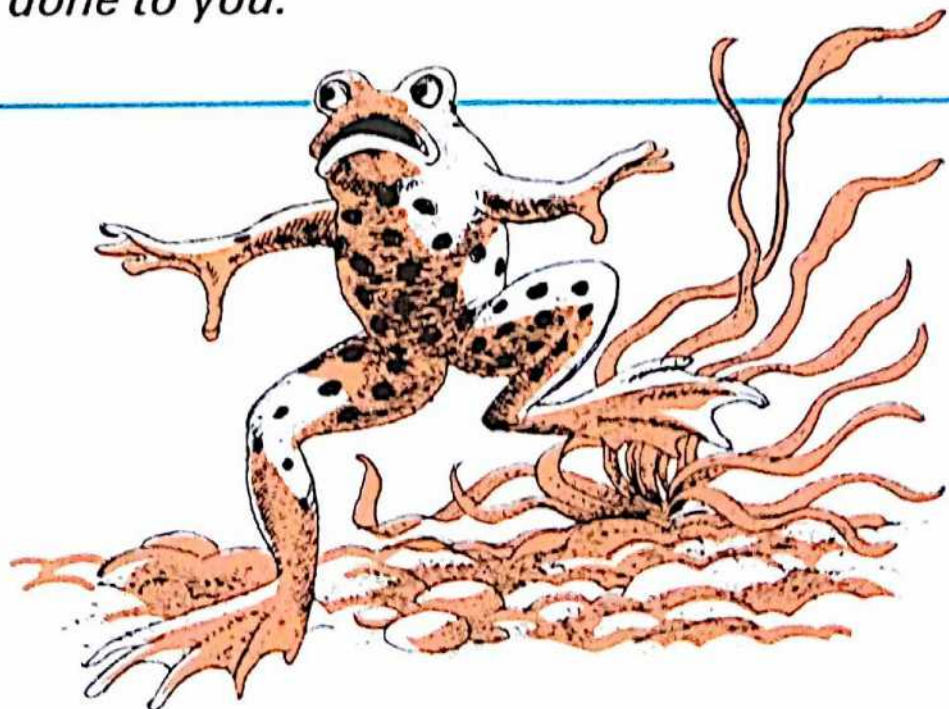
shouted the little frog.

"You would not like to have stones  
thrown at you if you were frogs.

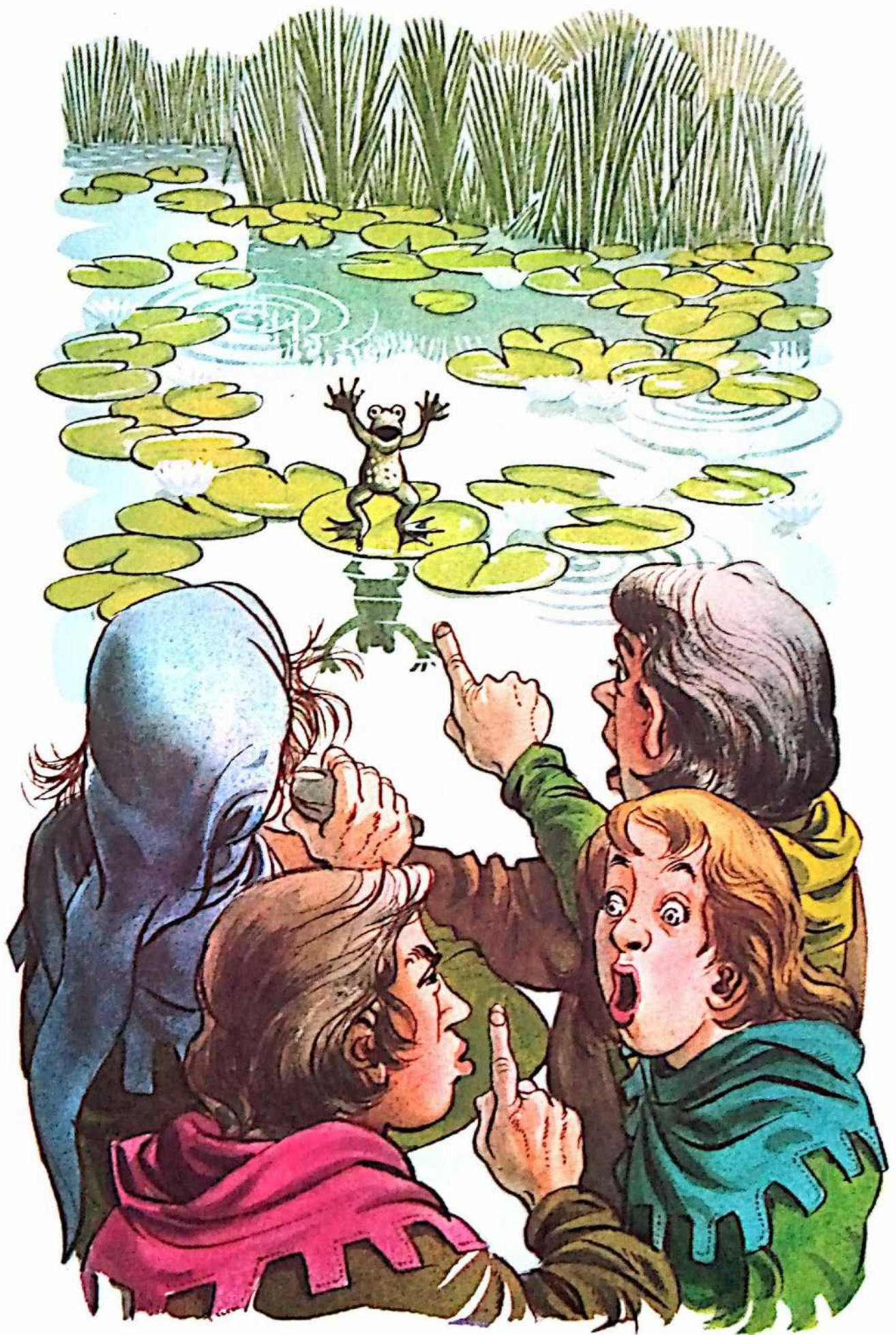
It may be fun for you, but it is no fun for us!"

Moral :

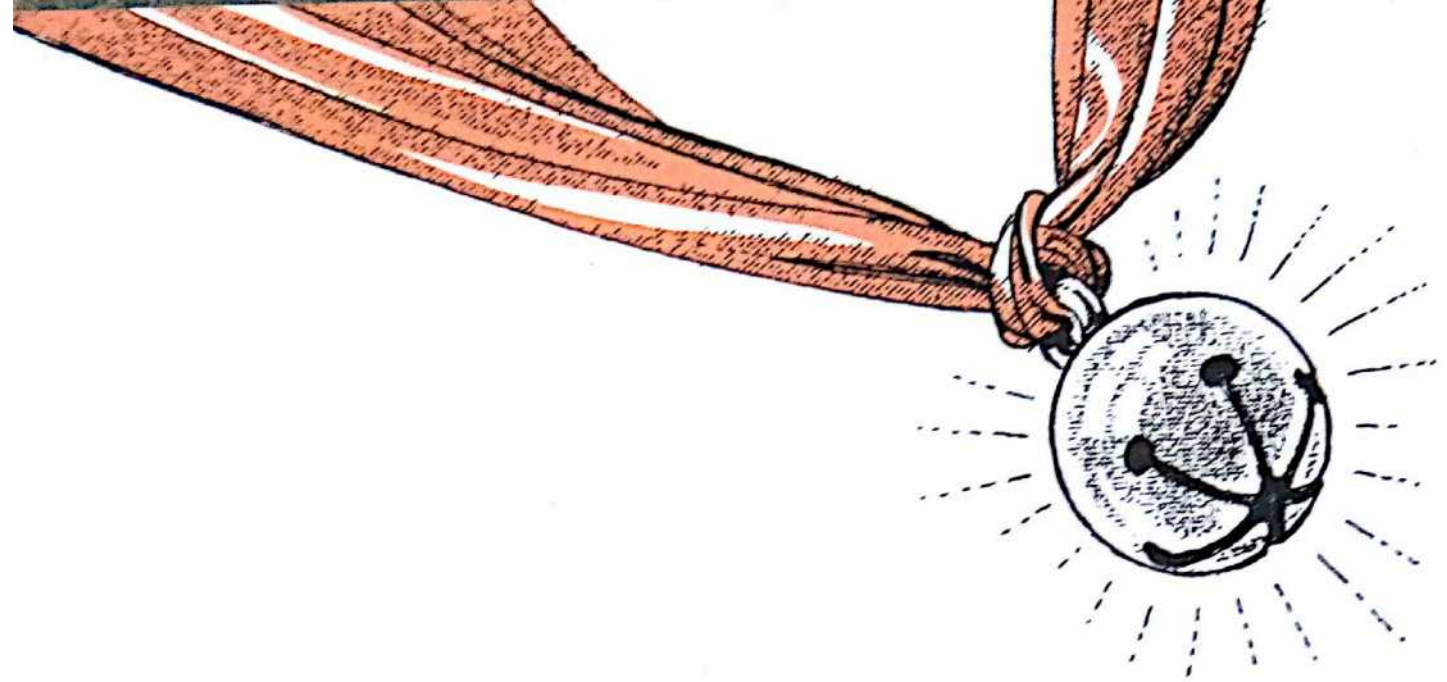
*Do not do things to other people that you would  
not like done to you.*











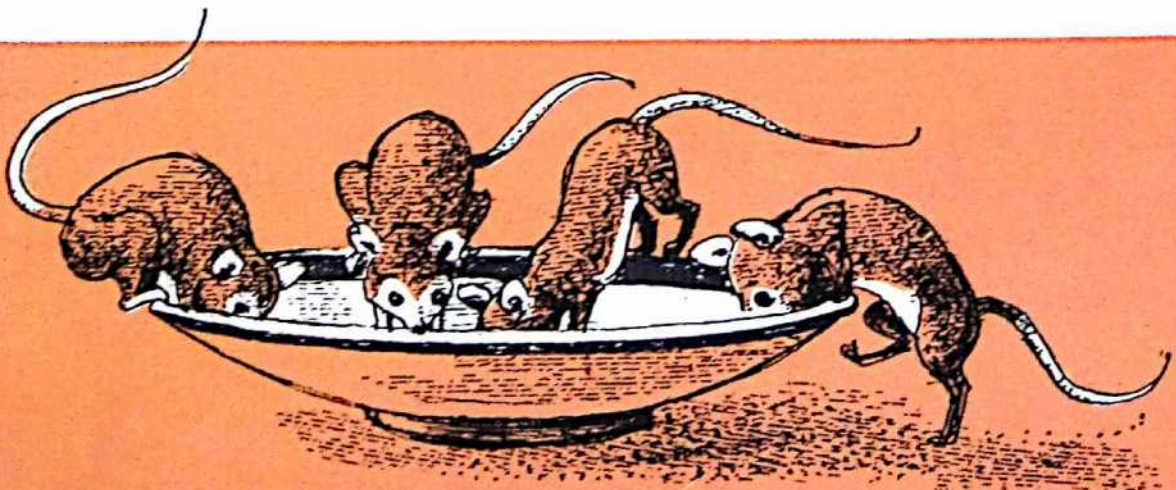
## Who will bell the cat

Once some mice lived in a house.

A big cat lived in the house too.

Every day she liked to eat some of the mice.

At last they said to one another,  
"This must stop, or soon we shall all be eaten.  
Let us all think what we can do."

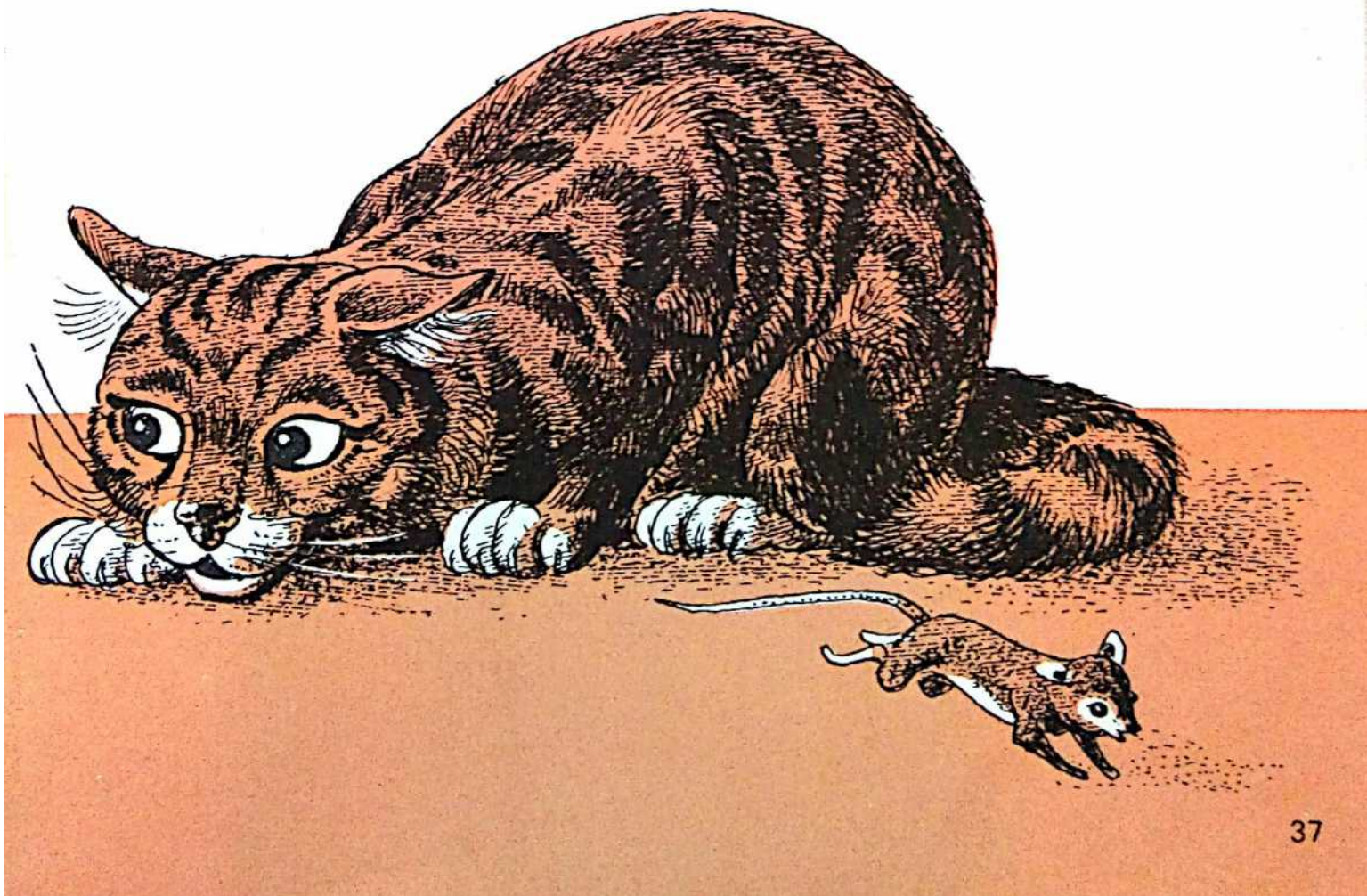




After a time an old mouse said,  
"I know what we can do.  
One of us must put a bell on the cat.

The bell will tell us when she is near  
and when we must stay at home.  
After she has gone away, we can come  
out again."

"Yes. That will be a wise thing to do.  
Let us do that," they all said.





"But which one of us will put the bell on her?"  
said the old mouse.

"I am too old, I cannot run very fast  
so I don't think I can do it."

"So are we," said some of the others.

"And we are too little," said the baby mice.

In the end no-one would do it.

So the bell was never put on the cat  
and she went on eating the mice.

Moral :

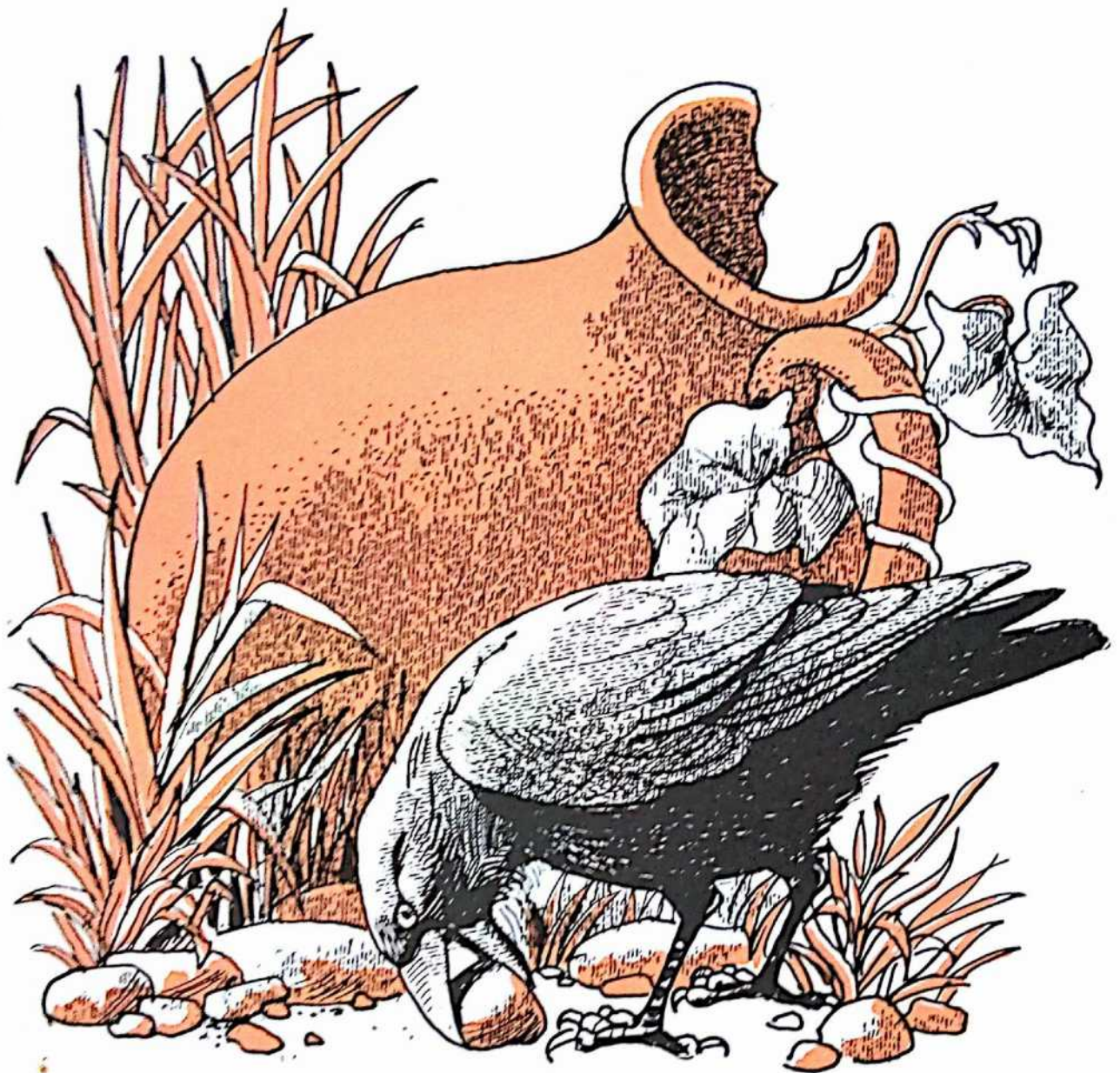
*Some things are more easily said than done.*











## The raven and the jug

A big, black raven wanted a drink.

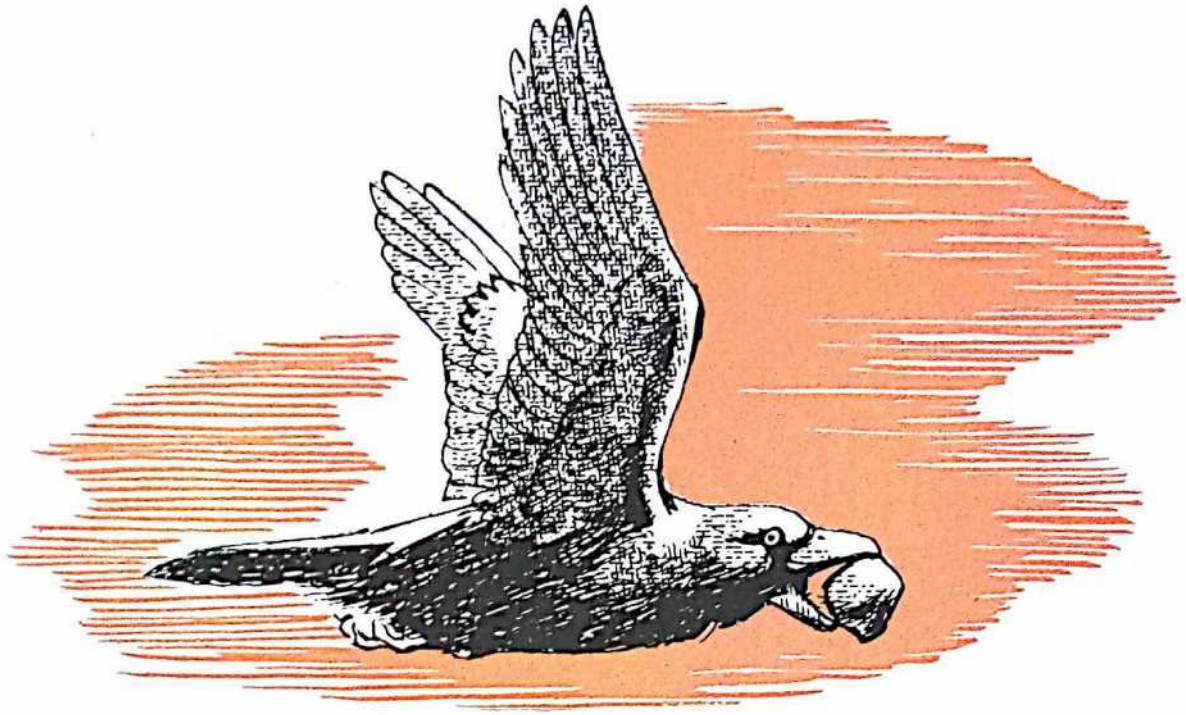
She saw a big jug with water at the bottom.

She could not reach the water  
and wondered what to do.









"I know" she said.

"I shall put some stones in the jug.  
Then the water will come up to the top."

After the first stone, the water rose a little.  
Then she put in another stone,  
and the water rose more.

She put more and more stones in  
until the water came up to the top of the jug.



"Now I can reach the water.  
At last I can have a drink," said the raven.  
So she had a very long drink.



Moral :

*If you try hard enough, you may find you can do something that at first seems very difficult.*



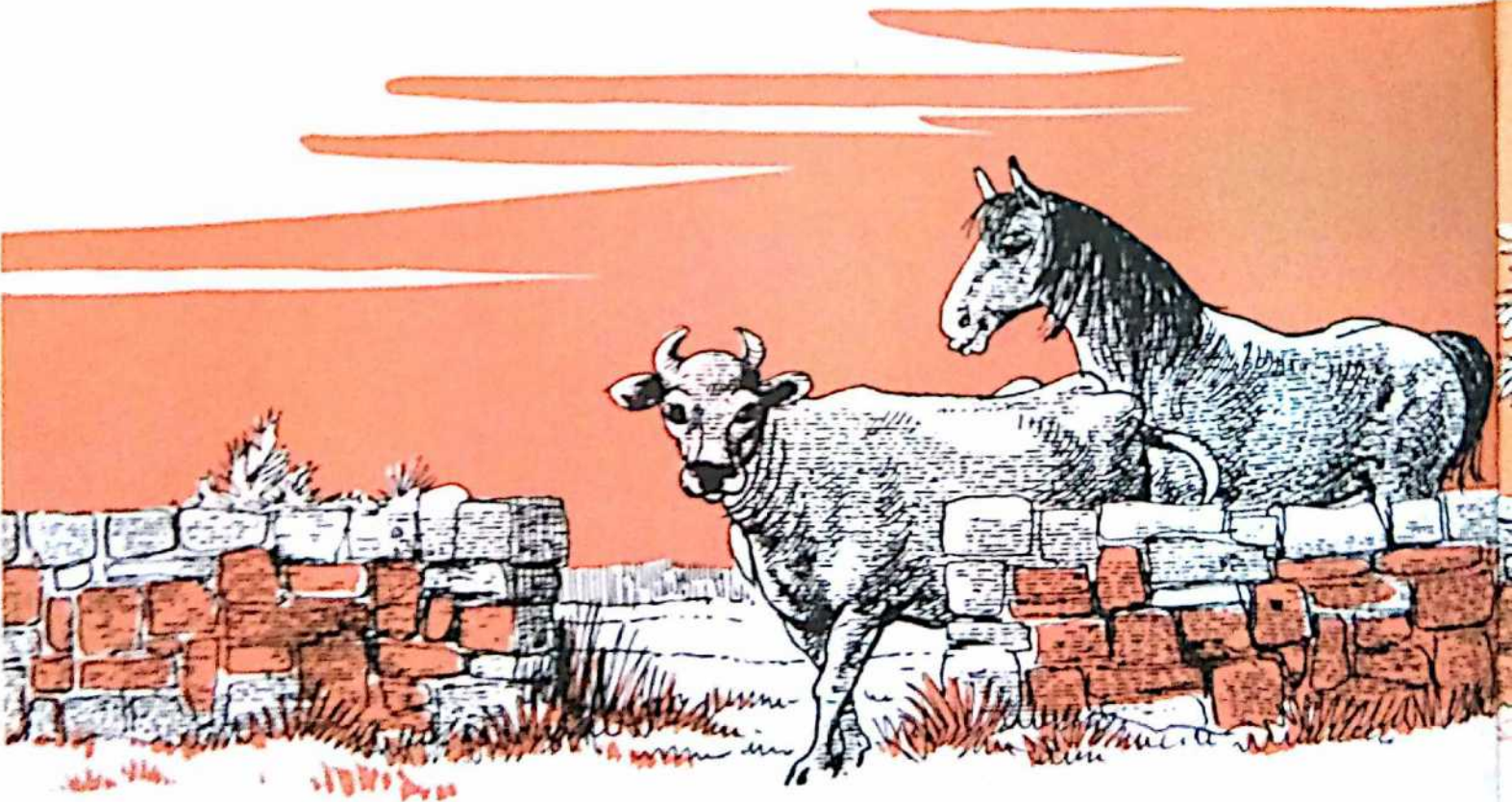
# The dog in the manger

One day a dog ran into a stable and jumped into the manger.

The manger had some hay in it.

When the horse and cow wanted to eat their hay, the dog would not let them.

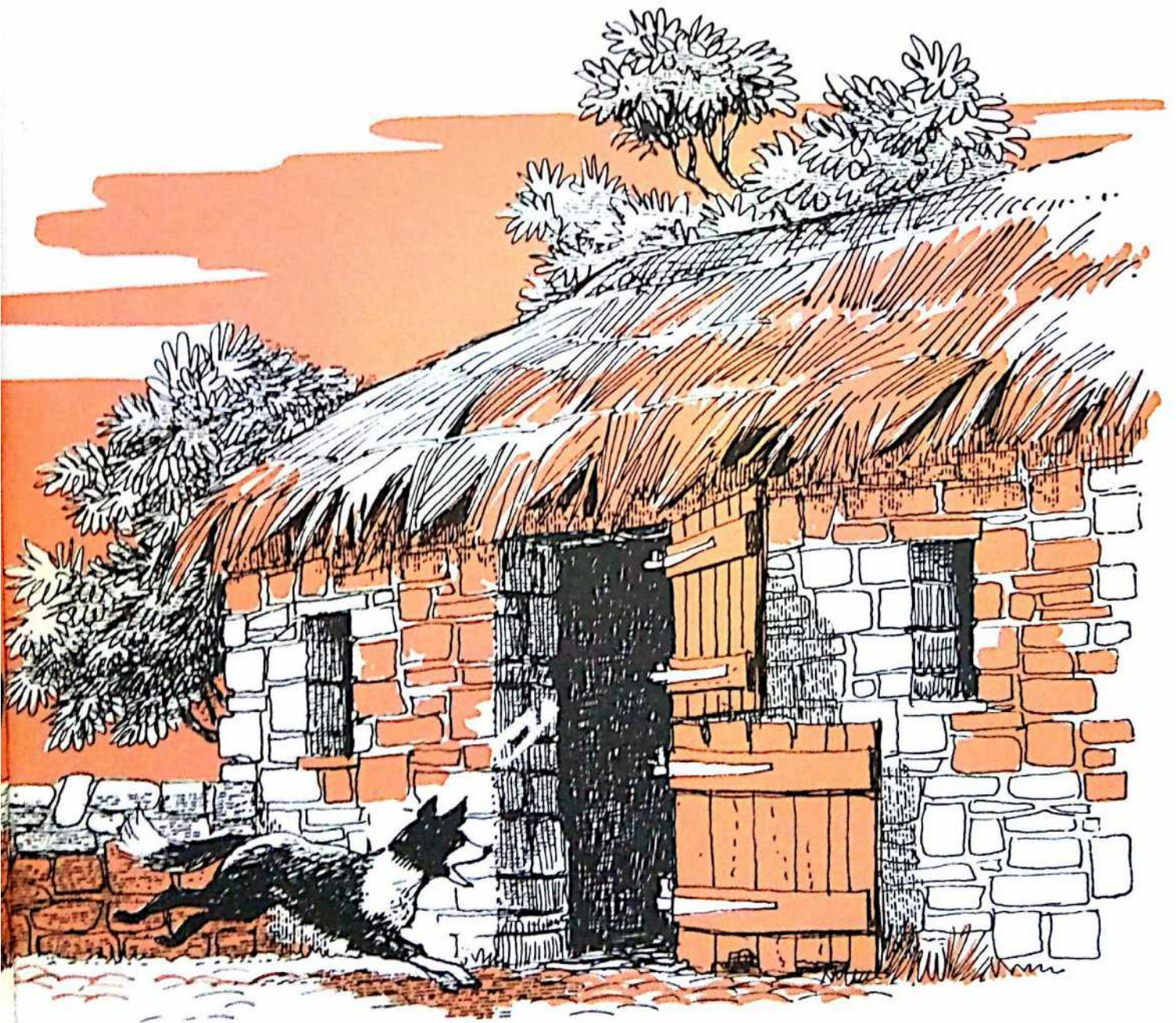
"You don't eat hay, so you don't need it," said the cow.





"We want the hay. It is ours. It is our dinner,"  
said the horse.

But the dog said, "If I can't eat it,  
then I shall not let you eat it either!"





"Why?" asked the cow.

"Why?" asked the horse.

"Because I don't like to see you eat  
what I can't eat too," said the dog,  
"Go away!"

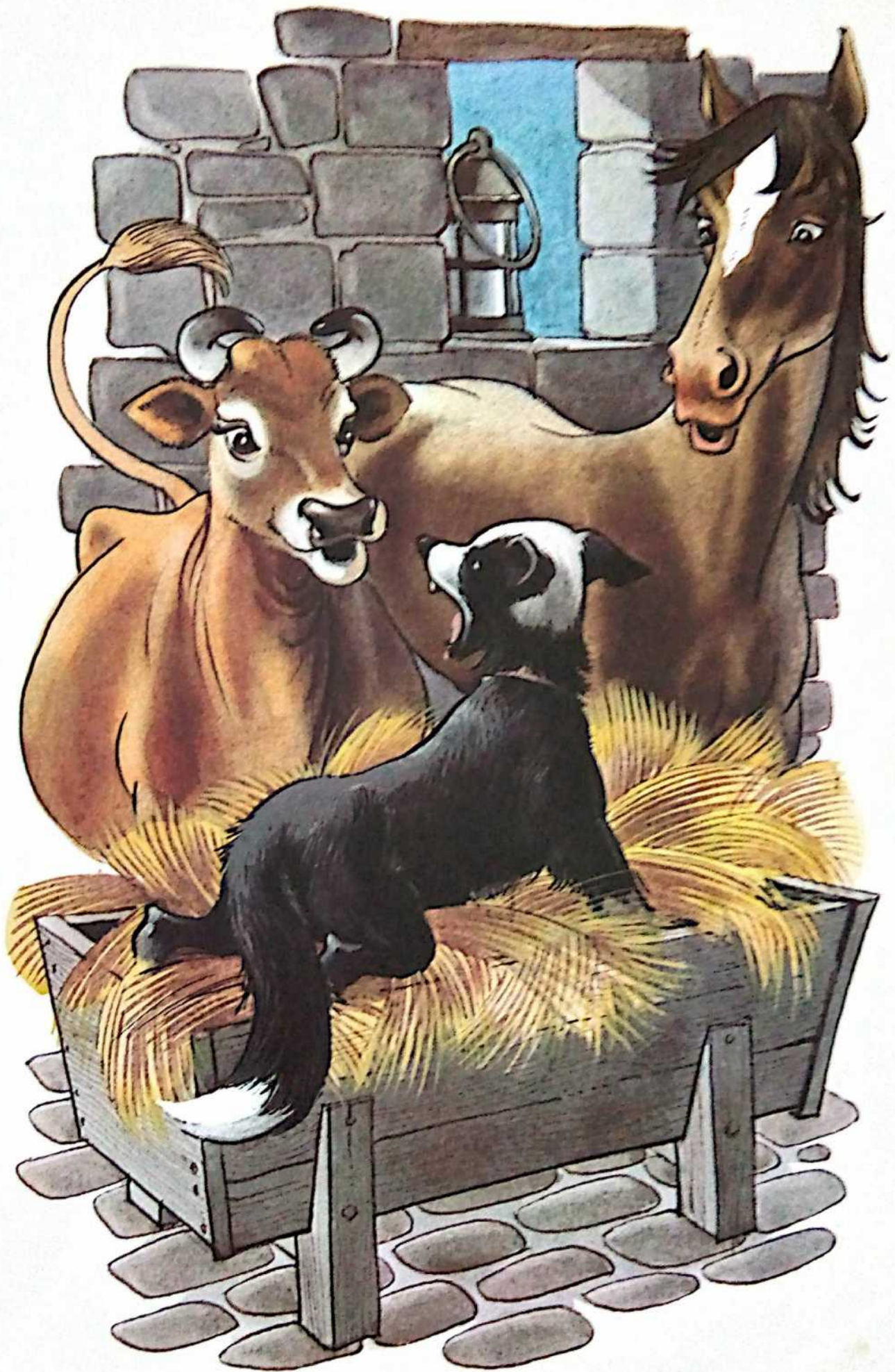
So the horse and the cow  
had to go away hungry.

Moral:

*Do not stop others having what you don't need.*











## **The lion and the hare**

hair - بال  
hear - سنا  
hare - خرگوش

Once a lion found a hare.  
He was just going to eat her  
when a stag ran by.

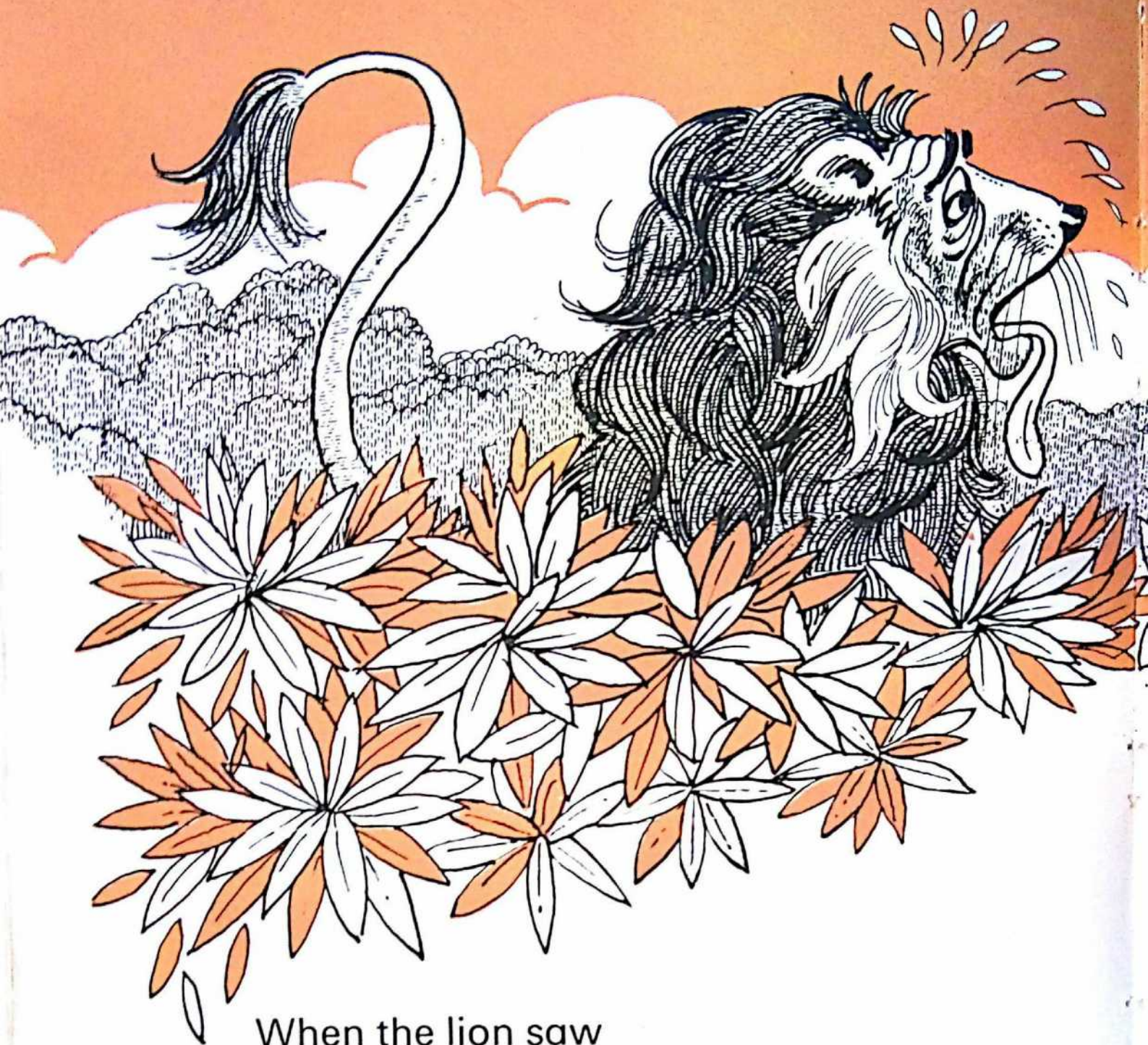
"That stag will make me a bigger dinner,"  
he said.

So he let the hare go and ran after the stag.  
But the stag could run very, very fast  
and soon it got right away.









When the lion saw  
that he could not catch the stag, he said,  
"I will go back for the hare."

But when he came to the place where the hare  
had been, he found that she had gone.





"I should have had her for my dinner when I first saw her," said the lion.

"I wanted too much and now I have nothing."

Moral :

*It is sometimes wiser to be content with what you have.*



# The fox and the grapes

A fox saw some nice grapes.

"They look good," he said.

"I want to eat them,  
but they are too high for me.  
I must try jumping for them."  
He jumped and jumped.

Again and again he jumped but he could not reach the grapes.

So he said, "I can see now that they are green. They are not sweet. I do not like green grapes. They are sour. I don't want them."

So he went away without any.

He knew that the grapes were really very nice. He just said they were sour because he could not reach them.

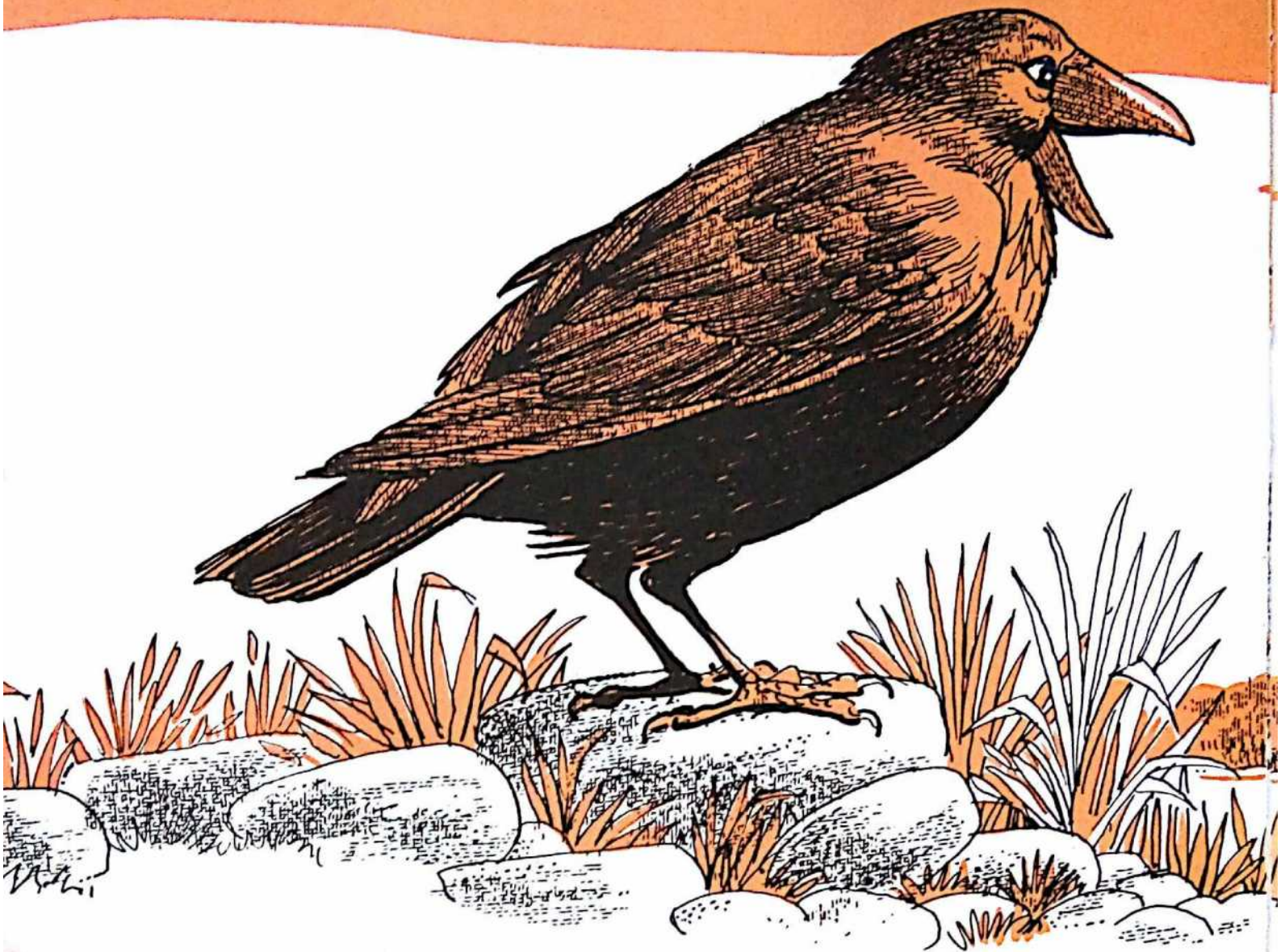
Moral :

*It is silly to say that you do not want something just because you cannot have it.*









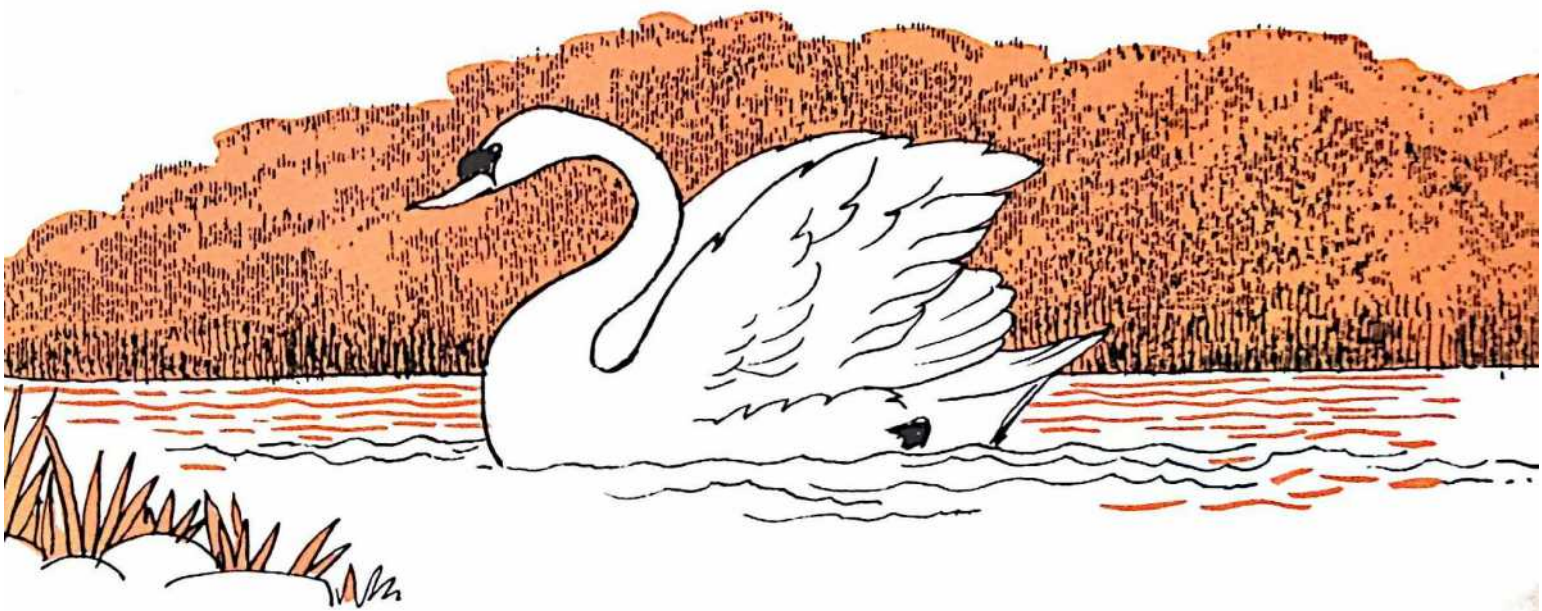
## The crow and the swan

A crow once saw a swan and said to her,  
"How nice you look ! I wish I were white like you.  
I do not like being black."

He saw that the swan was always in the water.

"If I get in the water,  
I may become white too," he said.





So he got into the water,  
but he was still black when he came out.

"Let me think," he said.

"If I **stay** in the water  
that may make me white."



Before the crow went into the water, he could fly about to look for food.

He always found something to eat.

He did not like fish and could find nothing else to eat in the water.

So he did not live very long, nor did he become white.

Moral :

*Think well before you copy other people.*











## Brother and sister

Once there was a man who had two children, a boy and a girl. The boy was good looking, but the girl was not.

One day they found a mirror and for the first time, saw what they looked like. The boy was very pleased.

He said to his sister, "How handsome I am ! I look much nicer than you !"







The girl did not like what he said  
and gave her brother a push.  
"Go away!" she said.

Their father saw what was happening and  
said to the boy, "You must always  
**be good as well as look good.**"





And to the girl he said,

"My dear, if you help everyone and do your best to please, everyone will love you. It will not matter that you are not as good looking as your brother."

Moral :

*It is better to **be** good than to be just good looking.*





## The fox and the lion

One day a fox saw a lion.

It was the first time he had ever seen one.

The lion looked so big  
that the fox did not know what to do.  
He ran away as fast as he possibly could.









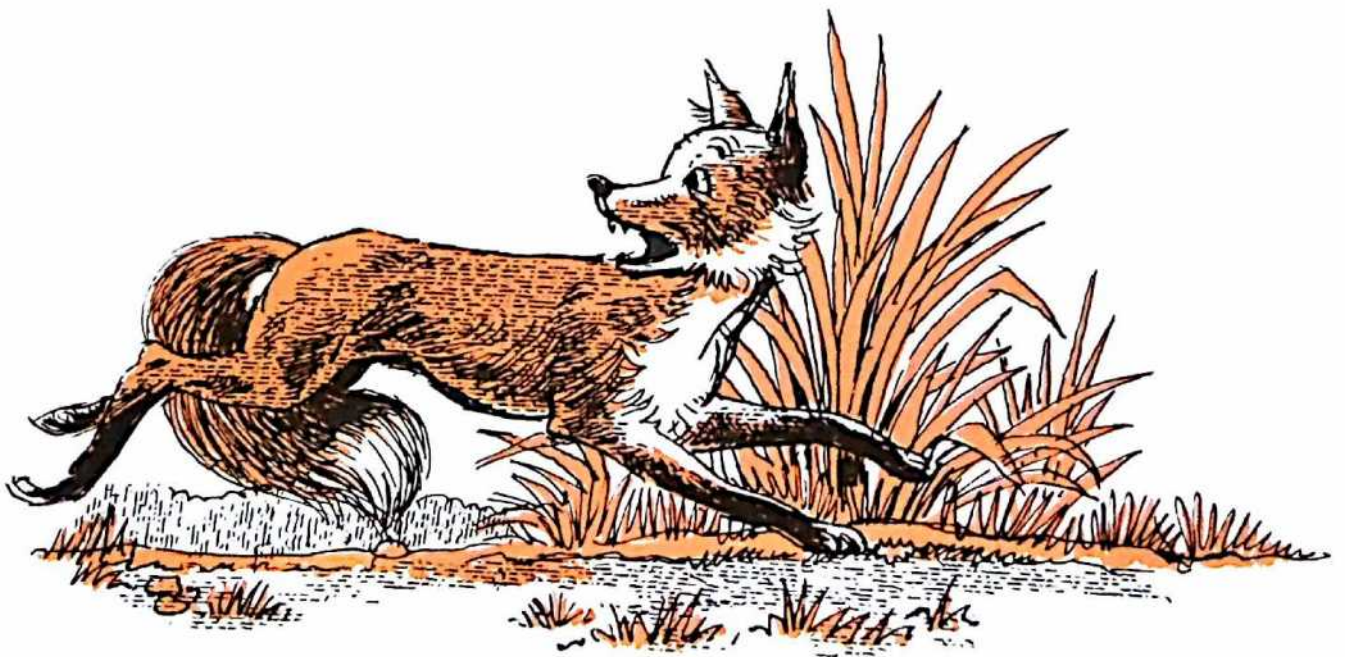
Soon he saw the lion again.

This time the fox said,  
"I saw you the other day.  
I don't like the look of you. You are too big.  
You might want to eat me."

And he ran away again.

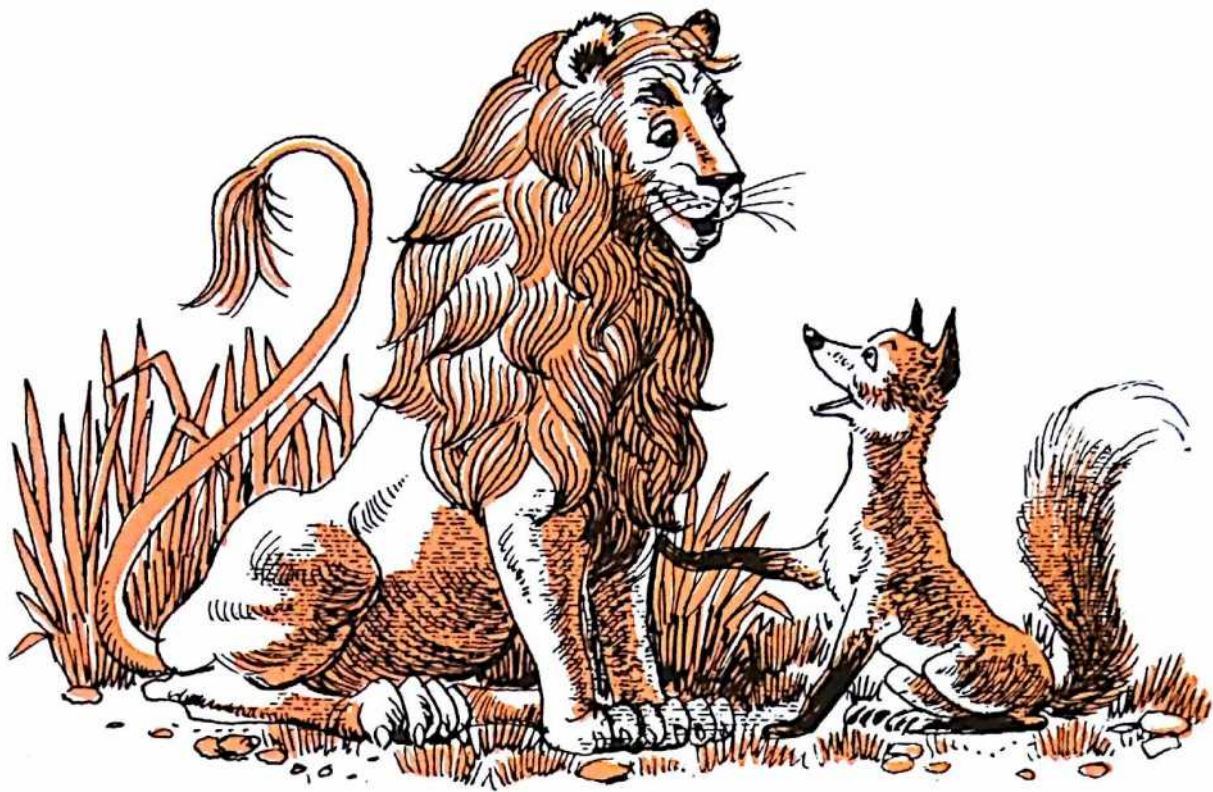
As he ran, he said to himself,  
"The lion did not eat me last time."

So this time he did not run so fast.



Next day he saw the lion again and did not  
run away at all.





"Good morning, Mr. Lion," he said.

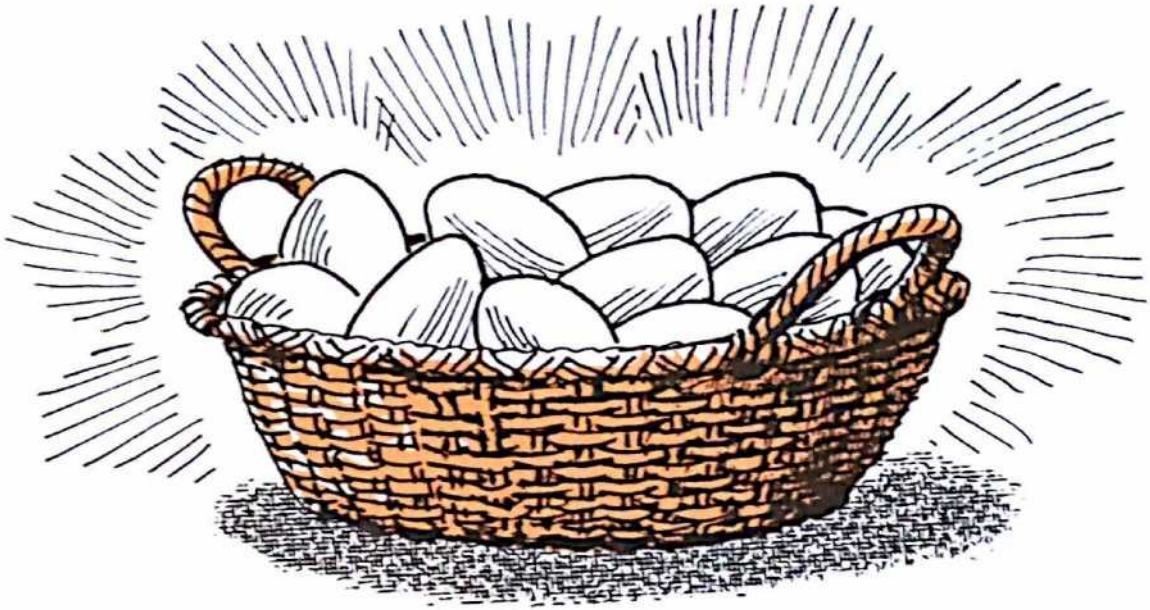
"I have seen you before. You do not look so big today. I am not afraid of you any more."

So he sat down to have a long chat with the lion.

Moral :

*Things are not always what they seem to be at first.*





## **The goose that laid the golden eggs**

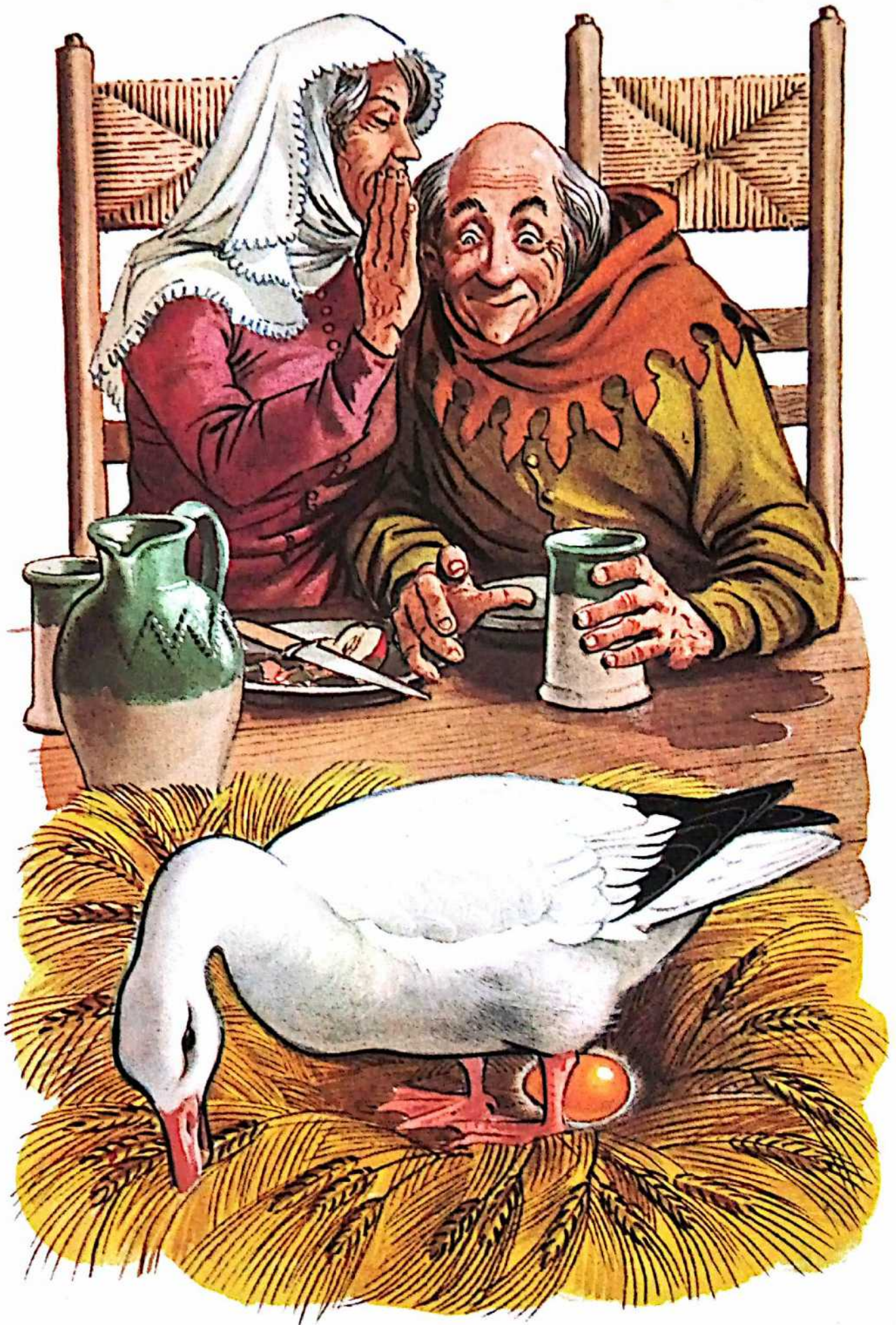
Once an old man and an old woman had a goose.

Their goose was not like other geese because its eggs were different. They were made of gold.

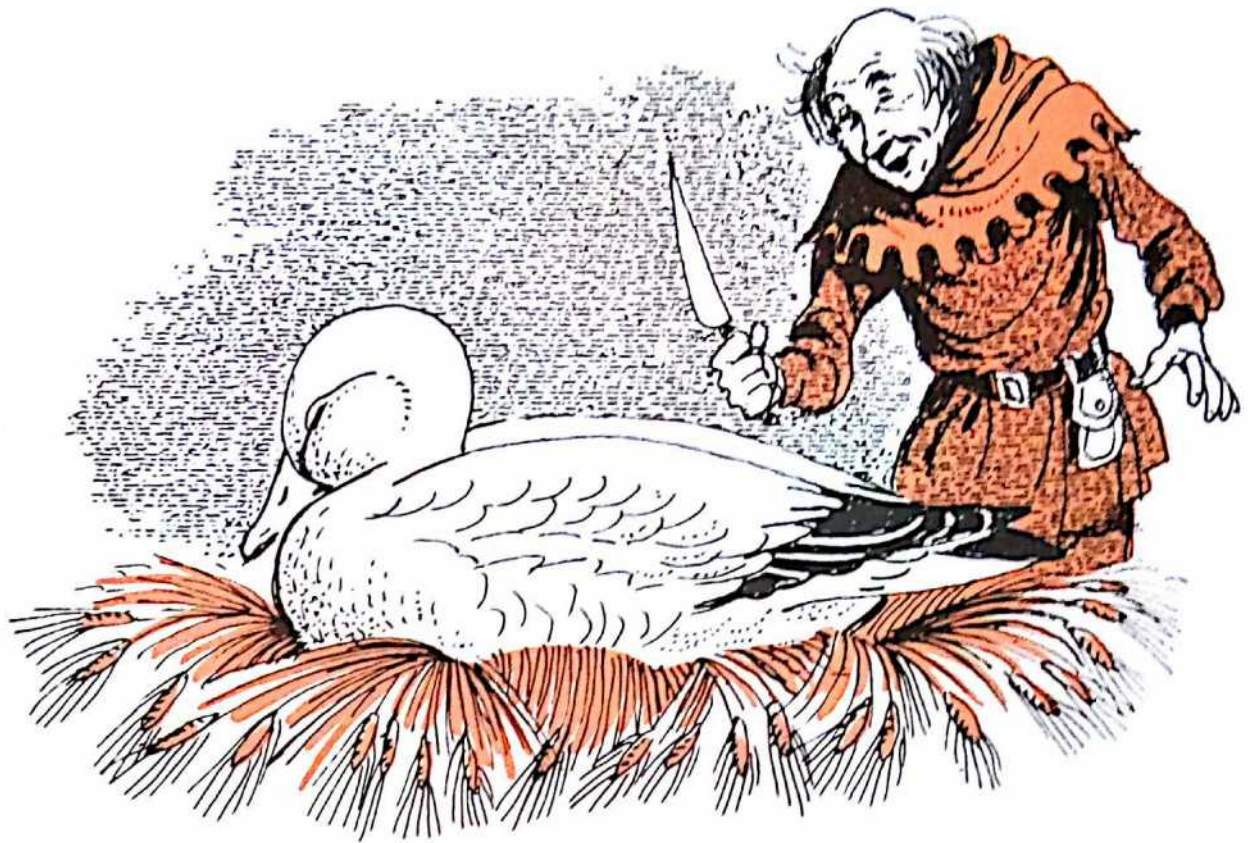
Every day the goose laid a golden egg for the old man and the old woman.

They sold the eggs for a lot of money. But the more money they had the more they wanted.









They said, "If our goose lays golden eggs  
she must be made of gold.  
So let us cut her open  
and get out all the gold at once.  
Then we will have more money."

So they killed the goose, but found no gold.

When their goose was cut open they saw  
that she was just like any other goose.



And after that there were no more golden eggs.  
So they did not get any more money.  
They had nothing left in the end.



*Moral : A greedy man can lose all he has.*





## The bear and the travellers

One day, two men were on a journey when they saw a bear.

At first, the bear did not see them.

One man got up into a tree as fast as he could.

The other man was slow.  
"Please help me up," he called.





But the first man went further up the tree  
and left him on his own.

“What can I do?”  
said the man under the tree.

“If I run away, the bear will see me.  
If he sees me, he will eat me.”

So he lay on the ground and did not move.



The bear came up and walked all around him.  
At last it went away.

The man in the tree came down.

He said, "The bear came very close to you.  
Did he say anything?"

"Yes," said the other man.

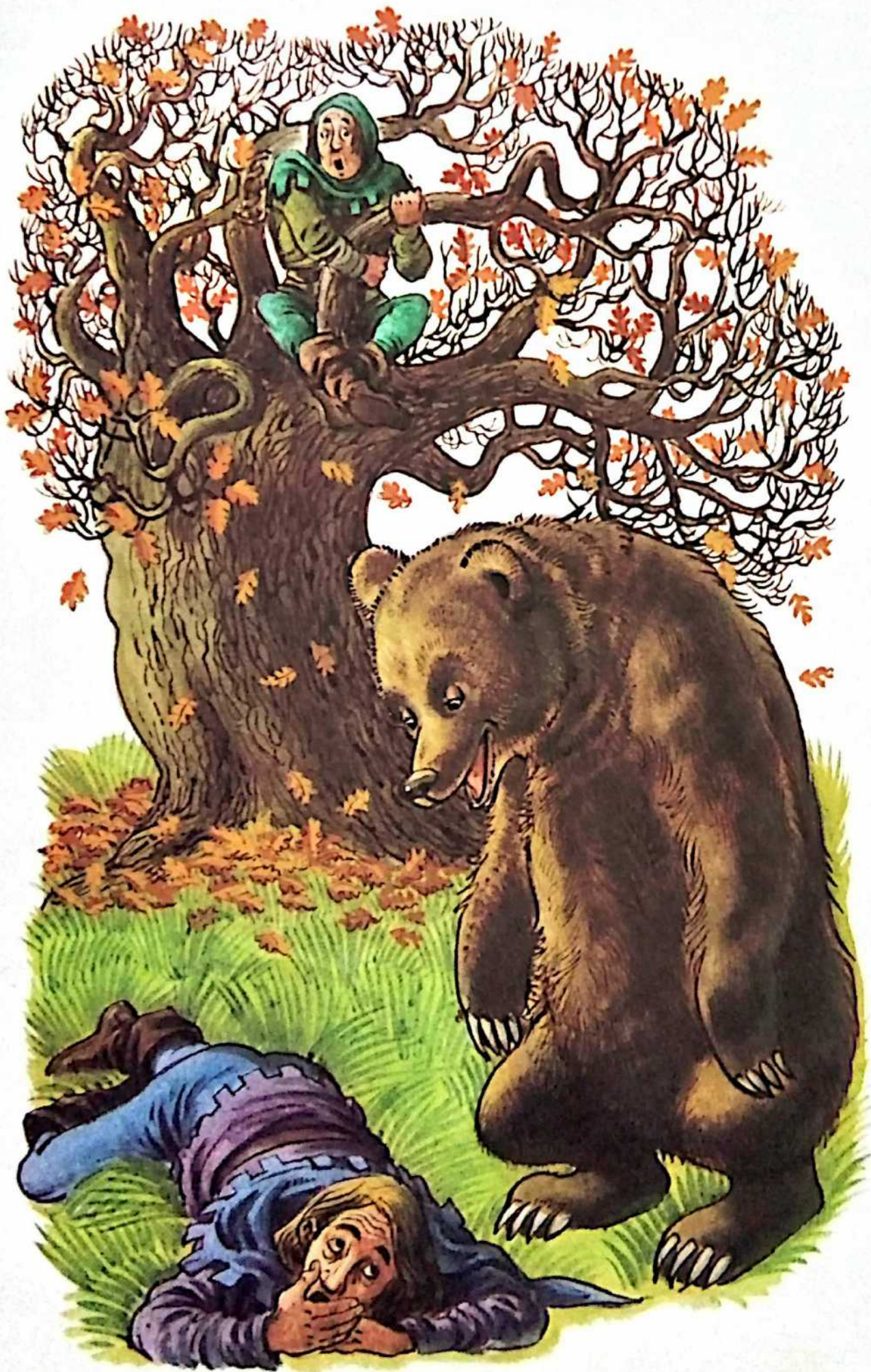
The bear said, "Never go for a walk with a man  
who leaves you when you are in danger."

Moral :

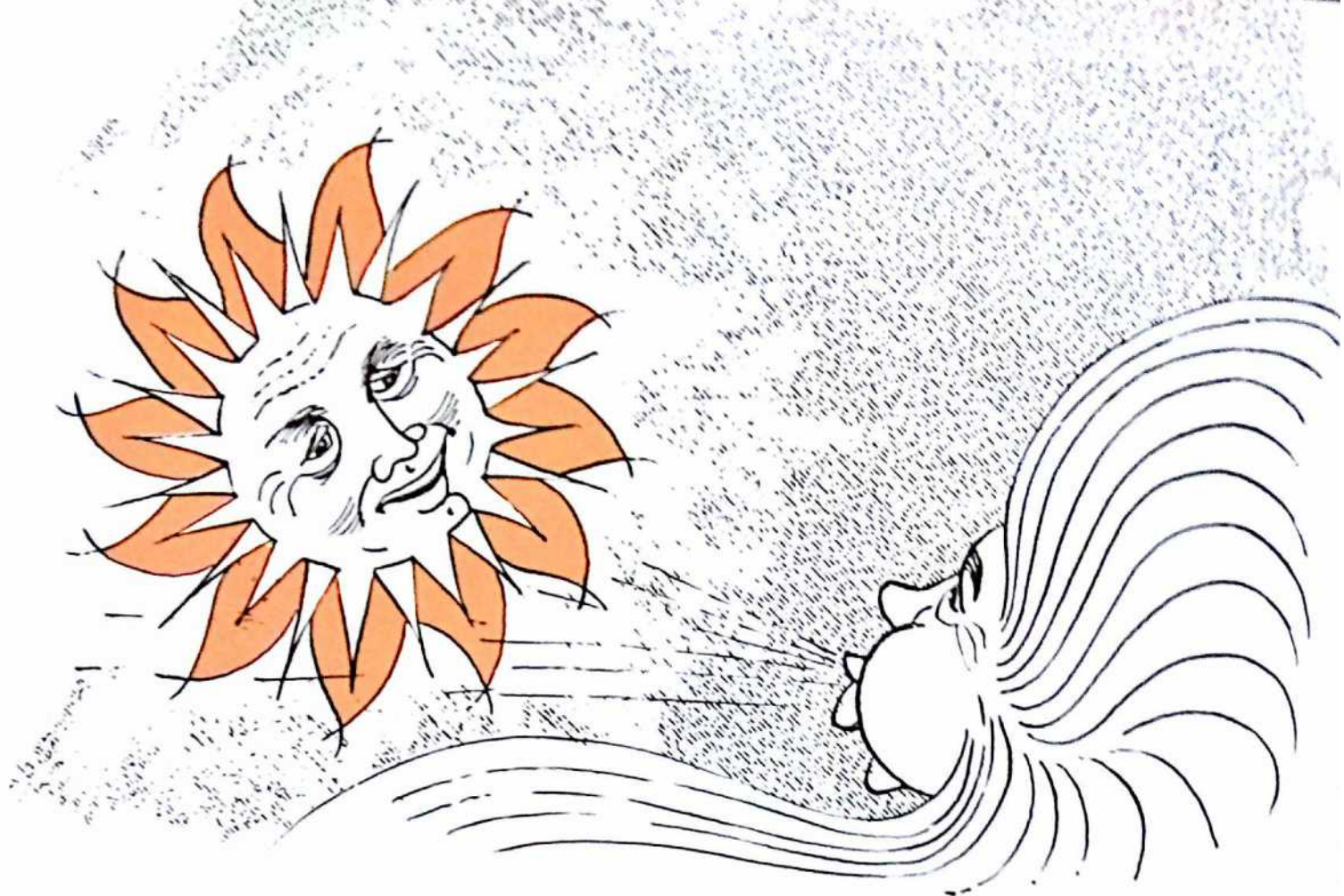
*A real friend will not leave you to face trouble  
alone.*











## The wind and the sun

One day the wind said to the sun,  
"Look at that man walking along the road.  
I can get his cloak off  
more quickly than you can."

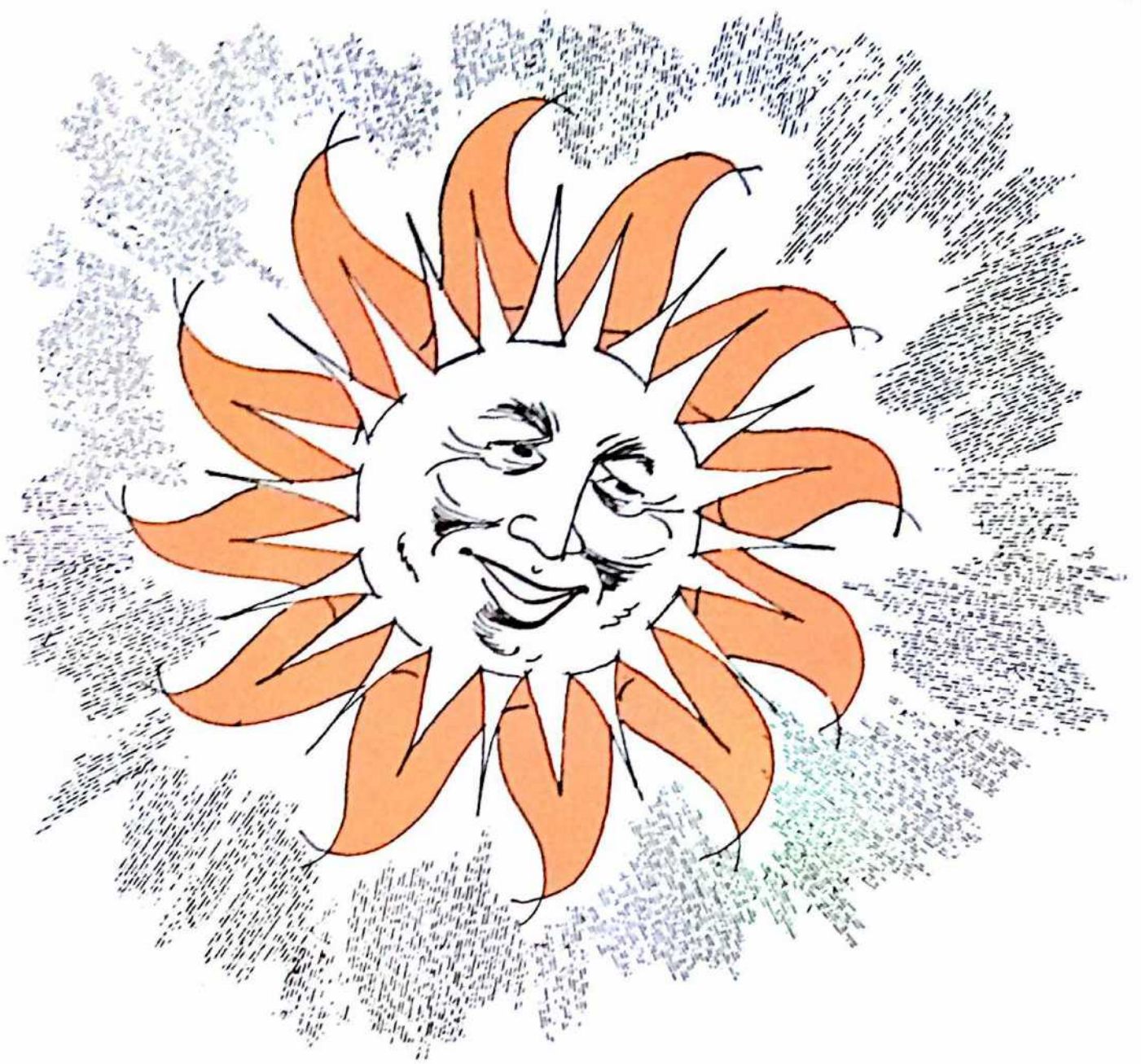
"We will see about that," said the sun.  
"I will let you try first."

So the wind tried to make the man  
take off his cloak. He blew and blew,  
but the man only pulled his cloak  
more closely around himself.









"I give up," said the wind at last.  
"I cannot get his cloak off."

Then the sun tried.  
He shone as hard as he could.  
The man soon became hot  
and took off his cloak.



"I have won," said the sun.  
"I made him take his cloak off."

Moral:

*Kindness often gets things done more quickly  
than force.*



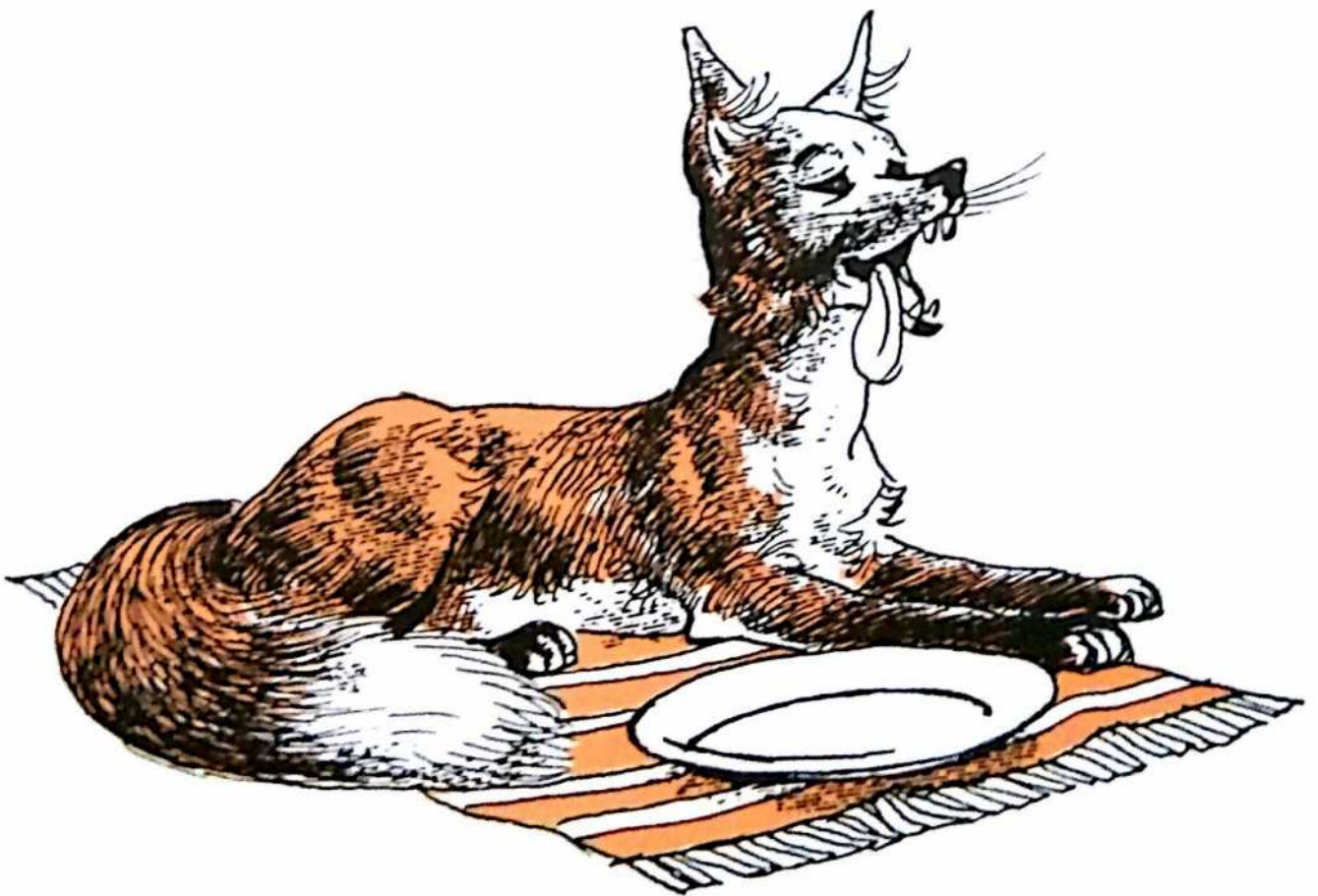


## The fox and the stork

One day, a fox said to a stork,  
"Would you like to come to my house  
for dinner?"

"Yes, please," said the stork.  
"That will be very nice."

But when the stork reached the fox's house,  
he found that the fox had put the dinner  
on two flat plates.

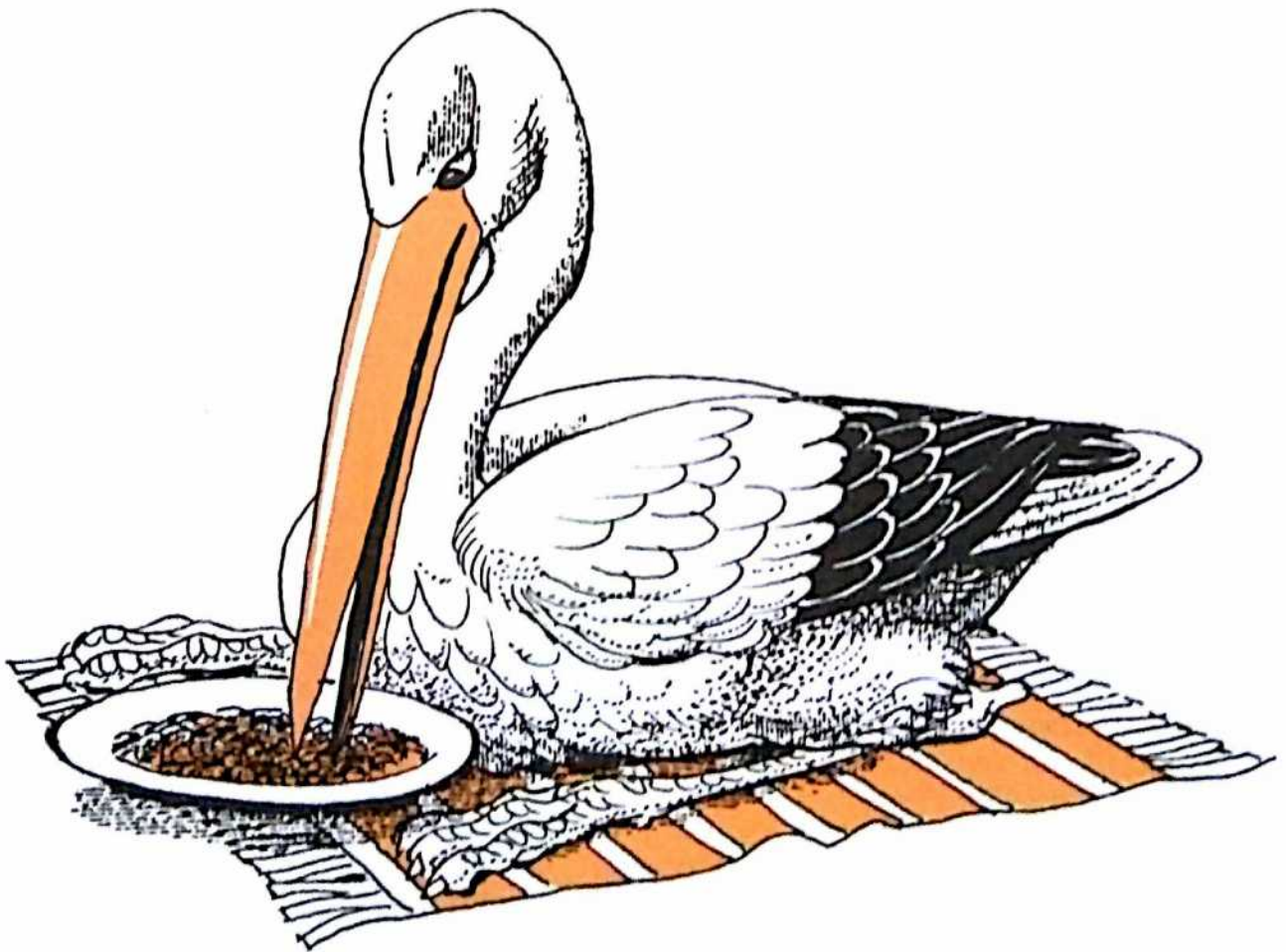




The stork could not eat anything because of his long beak.

The fox soon ate his own dinner and then said to the stork,  
“Don’t you like your dinner?  
If you cannot eat any of it  
then I will eat it for you.”

So he had his own dinner  
and the stork’s dinner as well.





Soon after, the stork asked the fox to dinner.

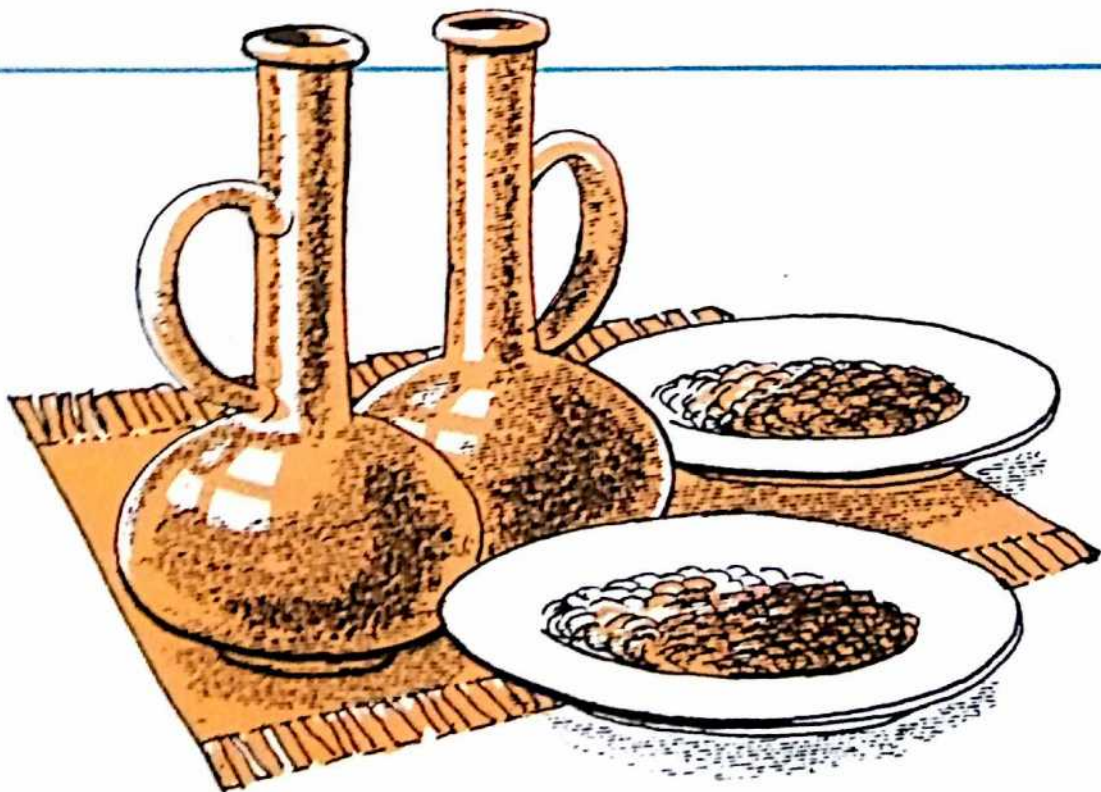
The stork put the food in two jugs  
which had long necks.

This time it was the fox  
who could not reach the food.

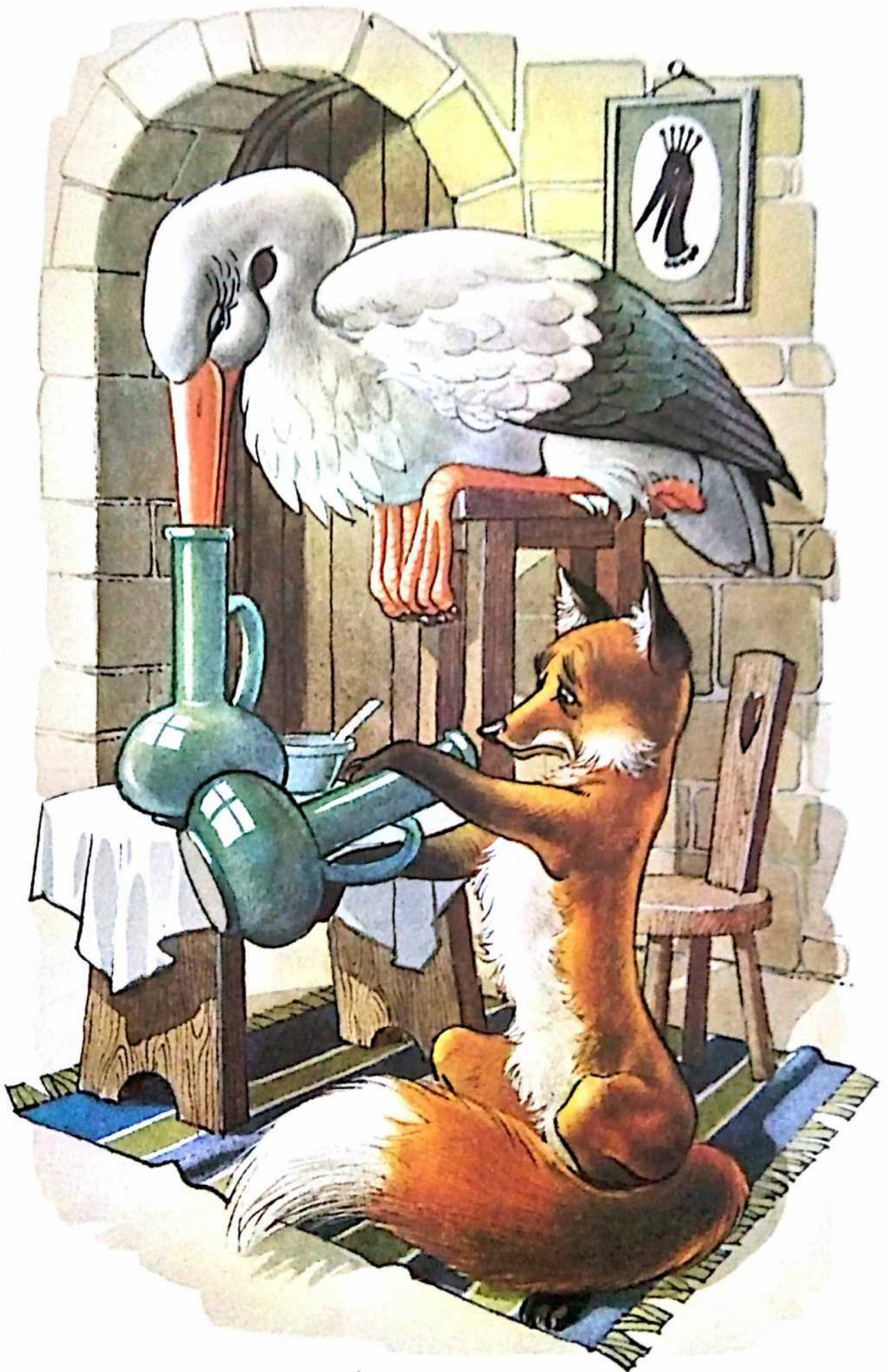
He had to watch  
while the stork ate both dinners.

Moral :

*If you play mean tricks on other people,  
they might do the same to you.*











## The trees and the axe

Once a man wanted to cut down some trees to make a house, but he could not use his axe because it had no handle.

So he went to the top of a hill where there were many trees and said to them, "May I take a tree from this hill?"

But he did not tell them why.







The trees said to one another,  
"Let us give him a very little tree.  
Then he will go away  
and not ask us for anything more."

So they gave him a little tree and the man  
went home.

When he got there  
he made a handle for his axe.

Then he went back to the hill  
and began to cut down the other trees.

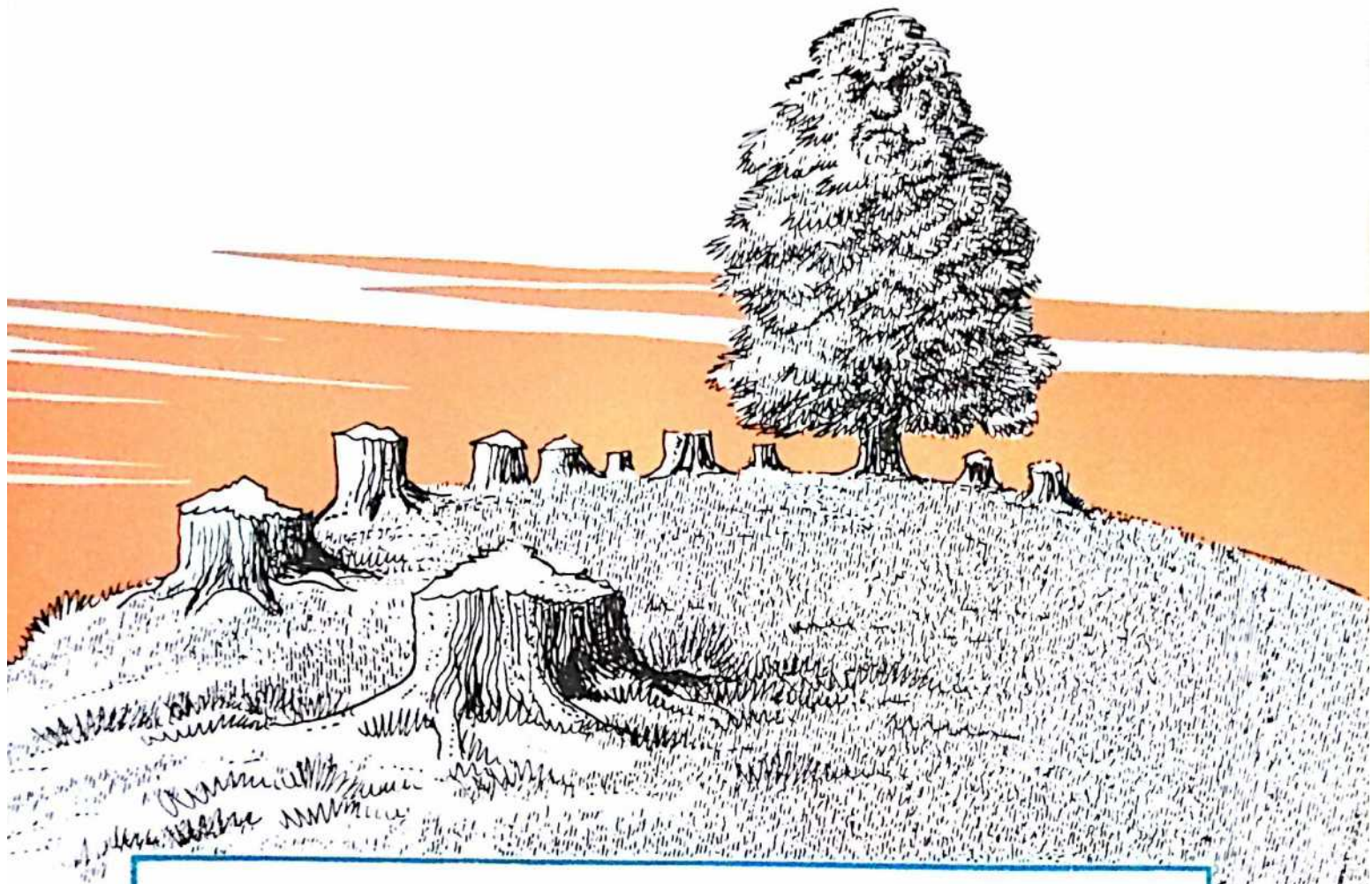




"If we had not let him have the little tree  
he could not have cut us down," they said.

But it was too late.

The trees were all cut down.



Moral :

*Be careful when you give way over small things,  
or you may have to give way over big ones.*





## The man and the partridge

One day, a fat partridge who was very hungry, wandered into a bird trap.

She gobbled up the food that was in the trap and then found that she could not get out.

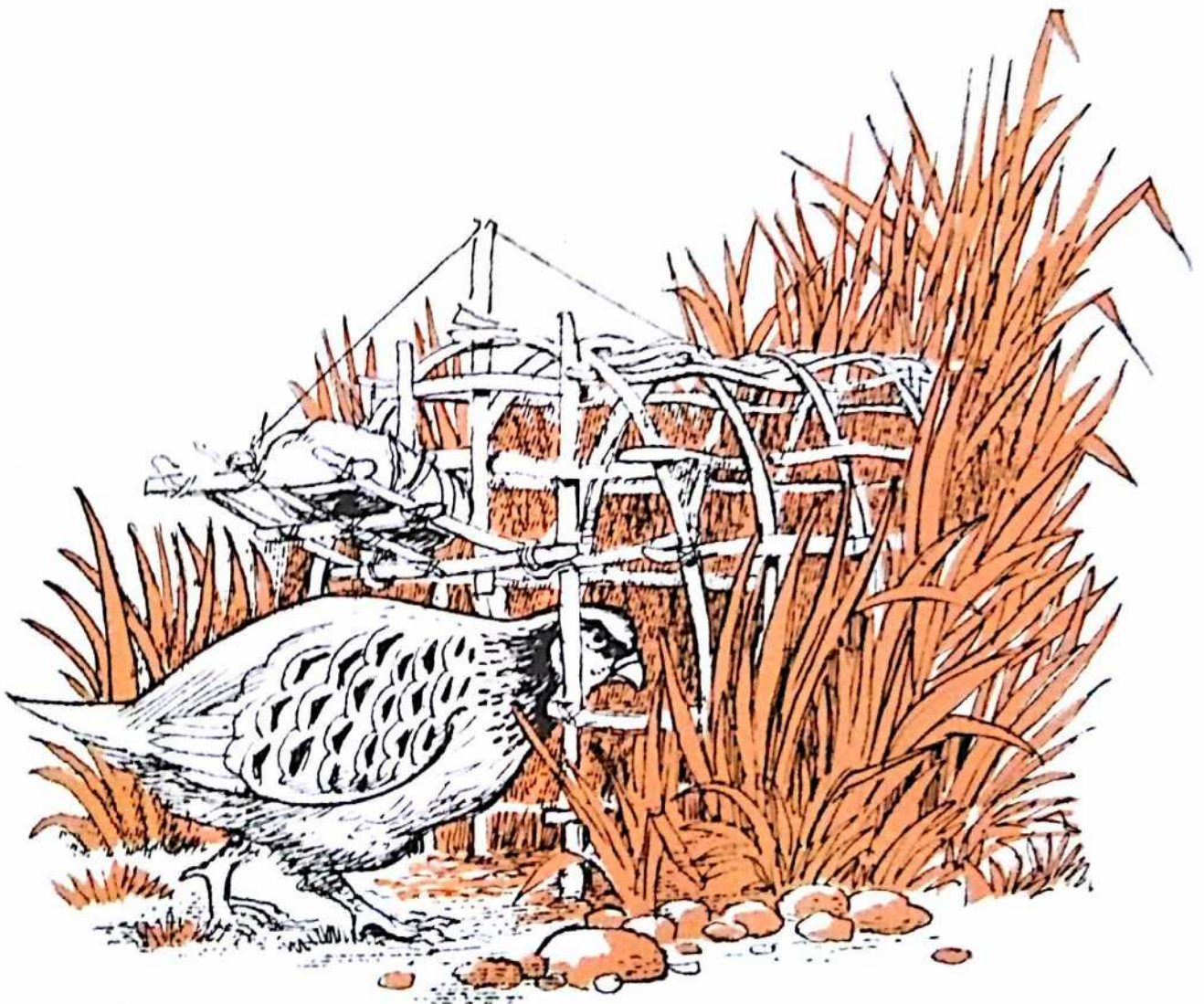
The man who had set the trap arrived soon after.

He was very pleased to see such a plump bird in his trap.



The partridge was very unhappy  
and begged him to let her go.

"Oh please, good sir," she pleaded,  
"If you will set me free,  
I will lead all my friends into your trap.  
Then you will have many more birds to eat."







The man took the plump partridge from his trap and said, "If you would do that, then you surely deserve to die. You are a wicked bird to want to do such a shameful thing."

Having said this, he took the partridge home for his supper.

Moral : *No-one loves a traitor.*

















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